Pokemon
Mystery Dungeon
Victory Fire
Book 4: the Reed that Bends

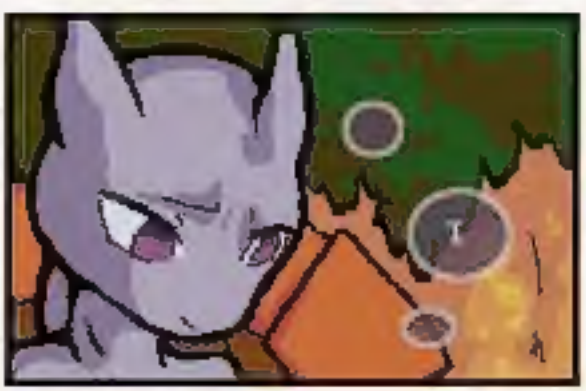
tch

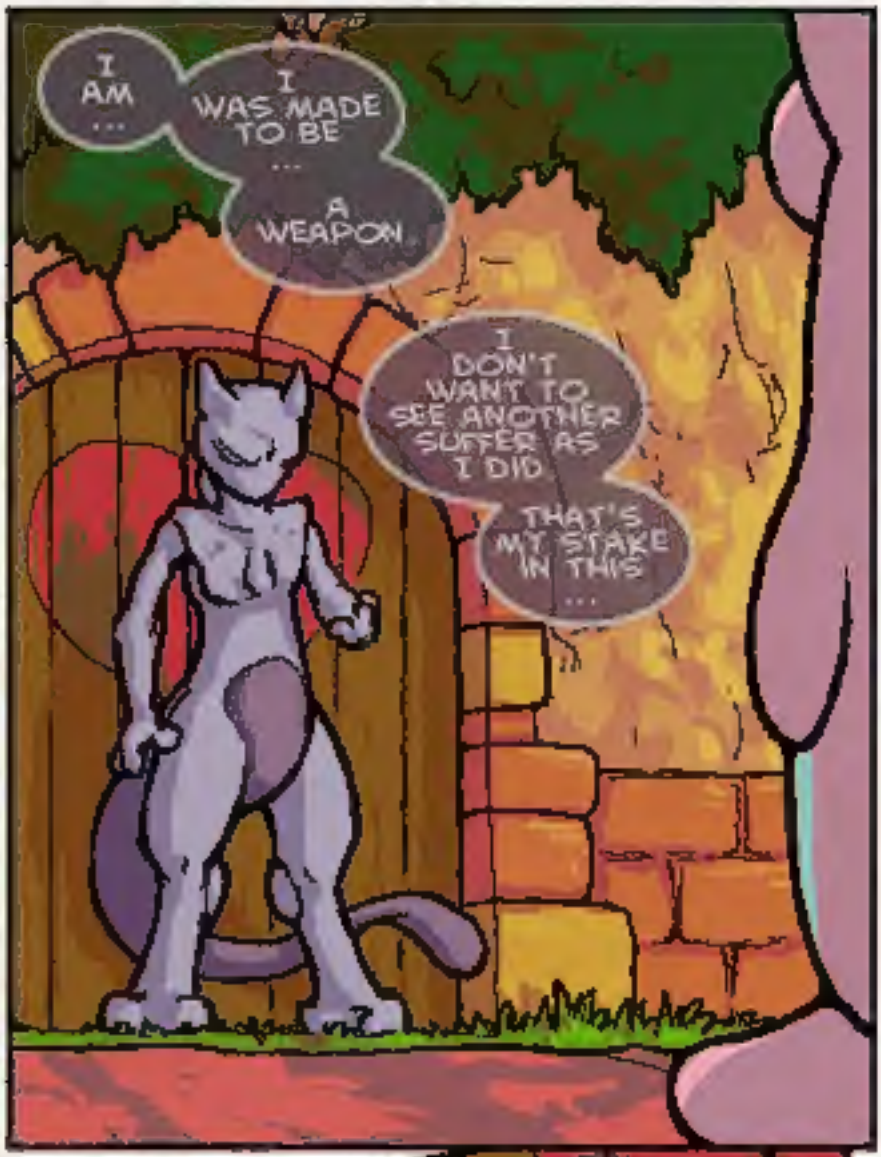
...CAN WE DO FOR YOU?
WHAT SORT OF INFOR-MATION?
WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT

YOU'RE WISE TO BE CAUTIOUS.
BUT I PROMISE YOU, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME.
IS THAT SO?

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS PERSON?
HE HAS DONE SOME VERY BAD THINGS.
I BELIEVE THAT HE DID THESE THINGS BECAUSE HE IS SICK, AND THAT HE WILL DO WORSE UNLESS HE IS FOUND.

HM... BUT THAT WASN'T WHAT I ASKED.
WHY YOU?
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY DO YOU CARE?




I AM ...
I WAS MADE TO BE ...
A WEAPON.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANOTHER SUFFER AS I DID
THAT'S MY STAKE IN THIS ...

I THINK ...
IF YOU WANTED TO JUST TAKE WHATEVER I KNEW ...
I COULDN'T STOP YOU.
BUT INSTEAD, YOU ASK ME FOR HELP?..

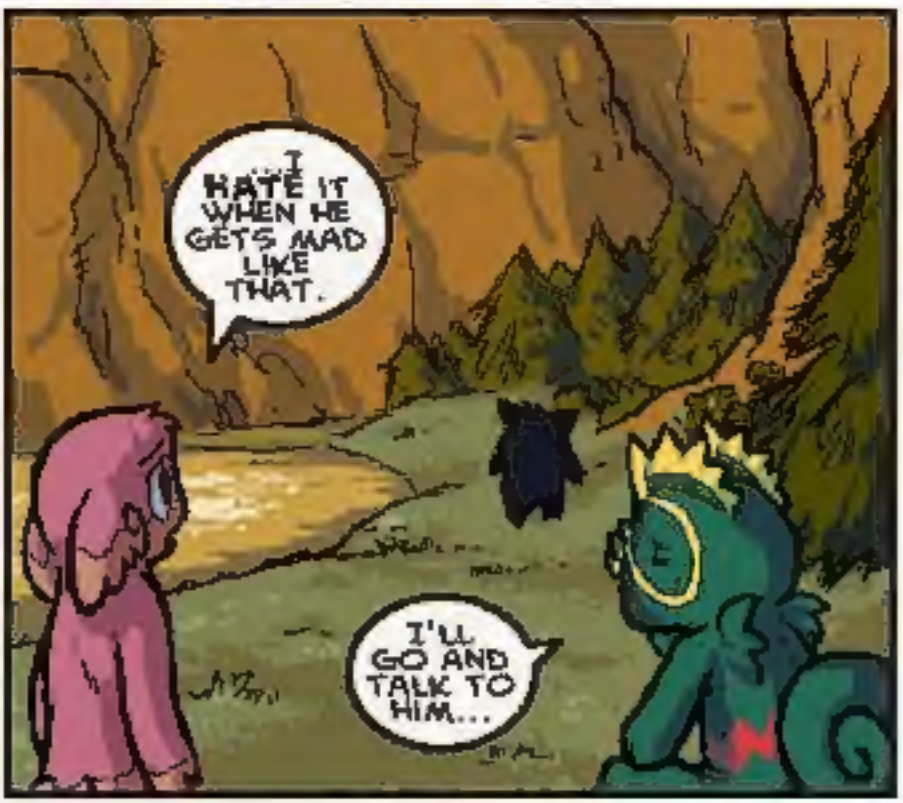
IF I SAY NO, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
LEAVE.
LOOK FOR ANSWERS ELSEWHERE

HMM... OKAY.
I TRUST YOU.
LET'S GO AND LOOK IN THE GUILD ARCHIVES. WE'LL ASK CHATOT TO HELP ...

OH CRAP!

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA DO THAT FADE THING!
YEAH WELL... SO DID I...

ENOUGH.


I HATE IT WHEN HE GETS MAD LIKE THAT.
I'LL GO AND TALK TO HIM...

BUTT OUT.
...NOW, I'VE WALKED ALL THE WAY OVER HERE TO FIND YOU
...
AND YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME WALK ALL THE WAY BACK?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU WERE DOING REALLY WELL YESTERDAY.
WHAT'S CHANGED TODAY?
...
I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THEM.
AHH...
THE OTHER GHOSTS
...

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN LIKE THAT.
YEAH, I AM!
I WAS FOR YEARS! MESSING WITH PEOPLE BECAUSE IT WAS FUNNY.
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE

...BUT THAT WAS THEN.
YOU'VE NEVER DONE IT TO US.
THAT'S WHAT I MEANT TO SAY.

I HATE BEING THIS.
HF ...

JEN THOUGHT YOU WERE ANGRY WITH HER.

LET'S GO BACK NOW.
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU BOTH TOGETHER. WE NEED TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO.
...
COULD YOU HELP ME UP?

I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUR SEARCH FOR MUSHARNA.
KELDEO KNOWS WHERE TO FIND HER. HE'S OFFERED TO TAKE JEN THERE TOMORROW ...AND I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE HIM UP ON IT.

...JUST ME?
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?

WE'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOU.
LAST NIGHT WE WENT BADLY WRONG, THANKS TO MY LEADER-SHIP...
AND NOW, WITH MY LEG THE WAY IT IS, IT COULD TAKE US ANOTHER WEEK TO GET THERE FROM HERE.
WE MUSTN'T LOSE THE TIME.

...SO WHY CAN'T I GO?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY LEGS.

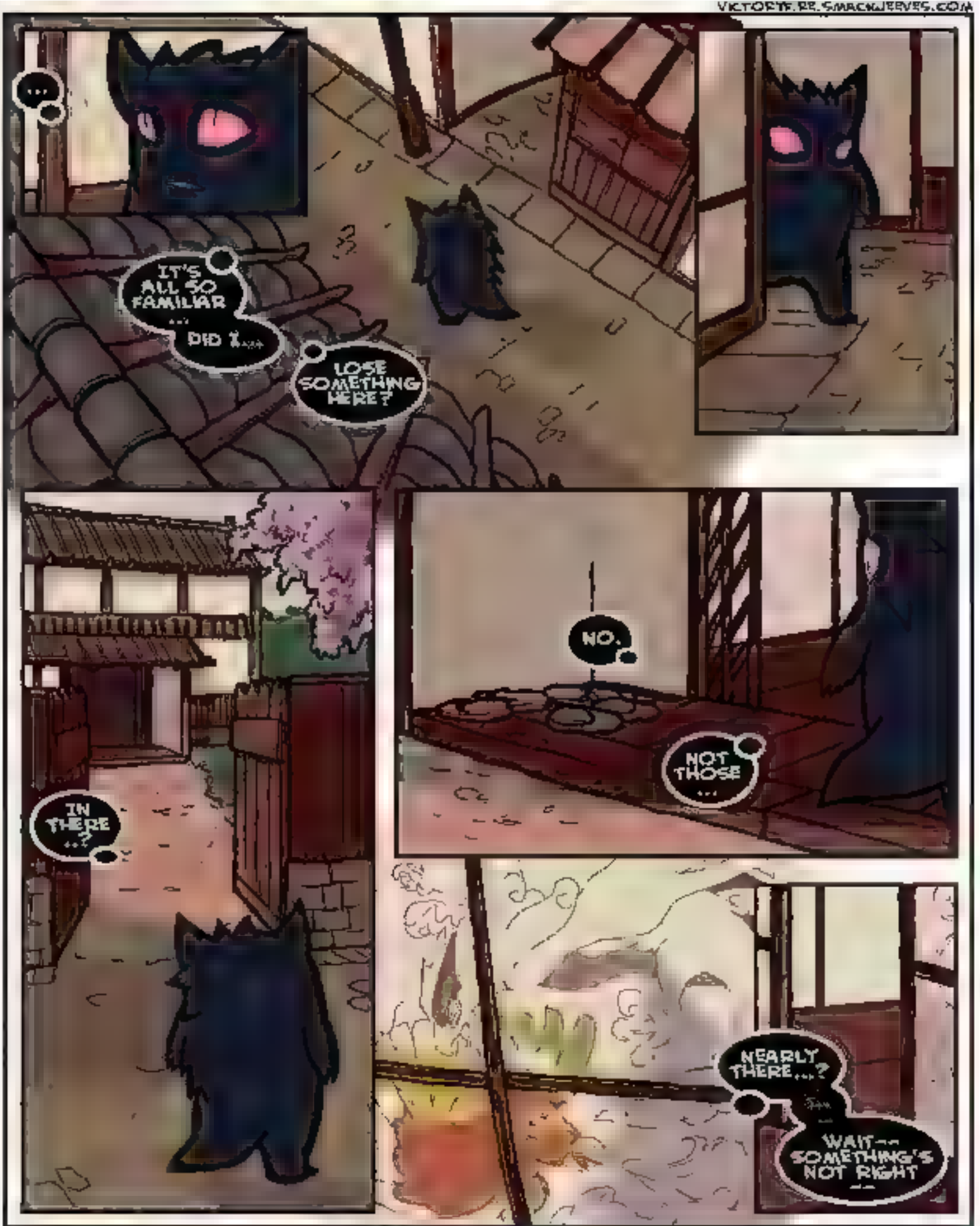
YOU COULDN'T KEEP UP ON THE PATHS HE'LL TAKE.
IT'S ONLY FOR ONE DAY- HE PROMISES TO HAVE HER BACK BY MORNING ...

I'D RATHER STAY WITH YOU GUYS ...
I KNOW... BUT YOU'LL BE SAFER WITH KELDEO THAN YOU WOULD BE WITH US.

WHEN IT TOUCHES THE CLIFF ...
I'LL WAKE HIM THEN...

JUST ...
A LITTLE LONGER ...
THEN
I'LL
...

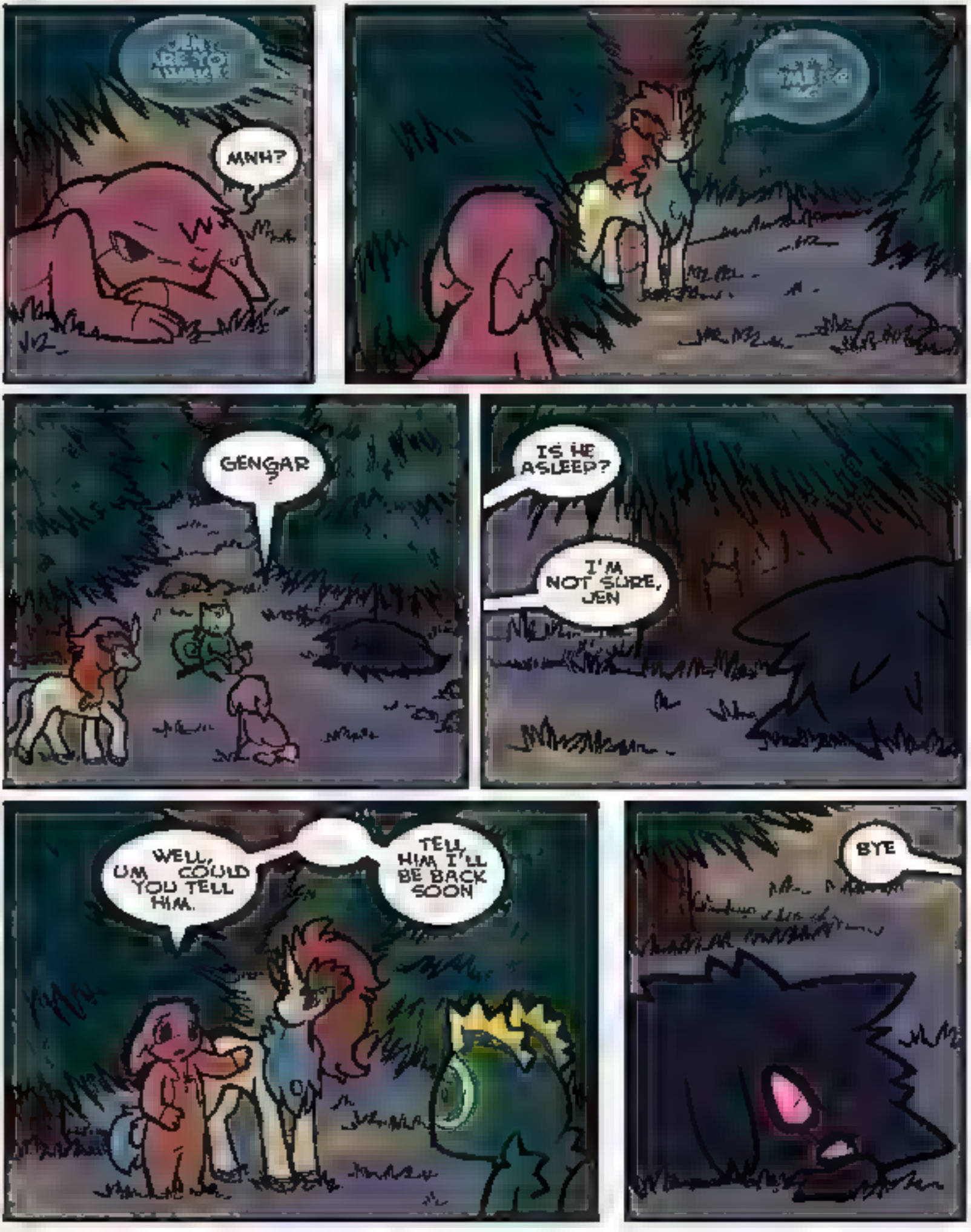
THIS PLACE...
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...
BUT WHEN?


...
IT'S ALL SO FAMILIAR ... DID I...
LOSE SOMETHING HERE?
IN THERE...?
NO.
NOT THOSE ...
NEARLY THERE...?
WAIT-- SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT

GGH
DREAM
DROP IT! NOW!
OR I SWEAR I WILL TRY TO KILL YOU!
IT'S YOUR DREAM.
I DIDN'T CHOOSE THE SHAPE.
YOU DREAM THIS PLACE A LOT, DON'T YOU?
BUT NEVER REMEMBER WHEN YOU WAKE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HELP ME, PLEASE...?
HELP YOU?
I--
YOU THREW ME OFF A FREAKIN' CLIFF!
HELP YOU?
ARE YOU--
--NUTS?
...GOT THAT FROM MY DREAMS TOO, HUH? REAL NICE, FROM SOMEONE WHO WANTS HELP.
WHAT? I--NO, NO, I DIDN'T MEAN--
YEAH, NO, I'VE BEEN WARNED ABOUT YOU ALREADY.
HOW YOU LIE, TRICK PEOPLE...
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY NOW...!

...THEN NOTHING I COULD SAY HERE WOULD
YOU,
YOU MUST LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHAT I AM.
I WILL LEAVE THE CHOICE TO YOU.
~WAIT, WHAT?
IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME AGAIN, SPEAK MY NAME IN DREAMS.
I'LL HEAR.
HEY, WAIT--
WHAT D'YOU --?
HEY!
DON'T JUST--

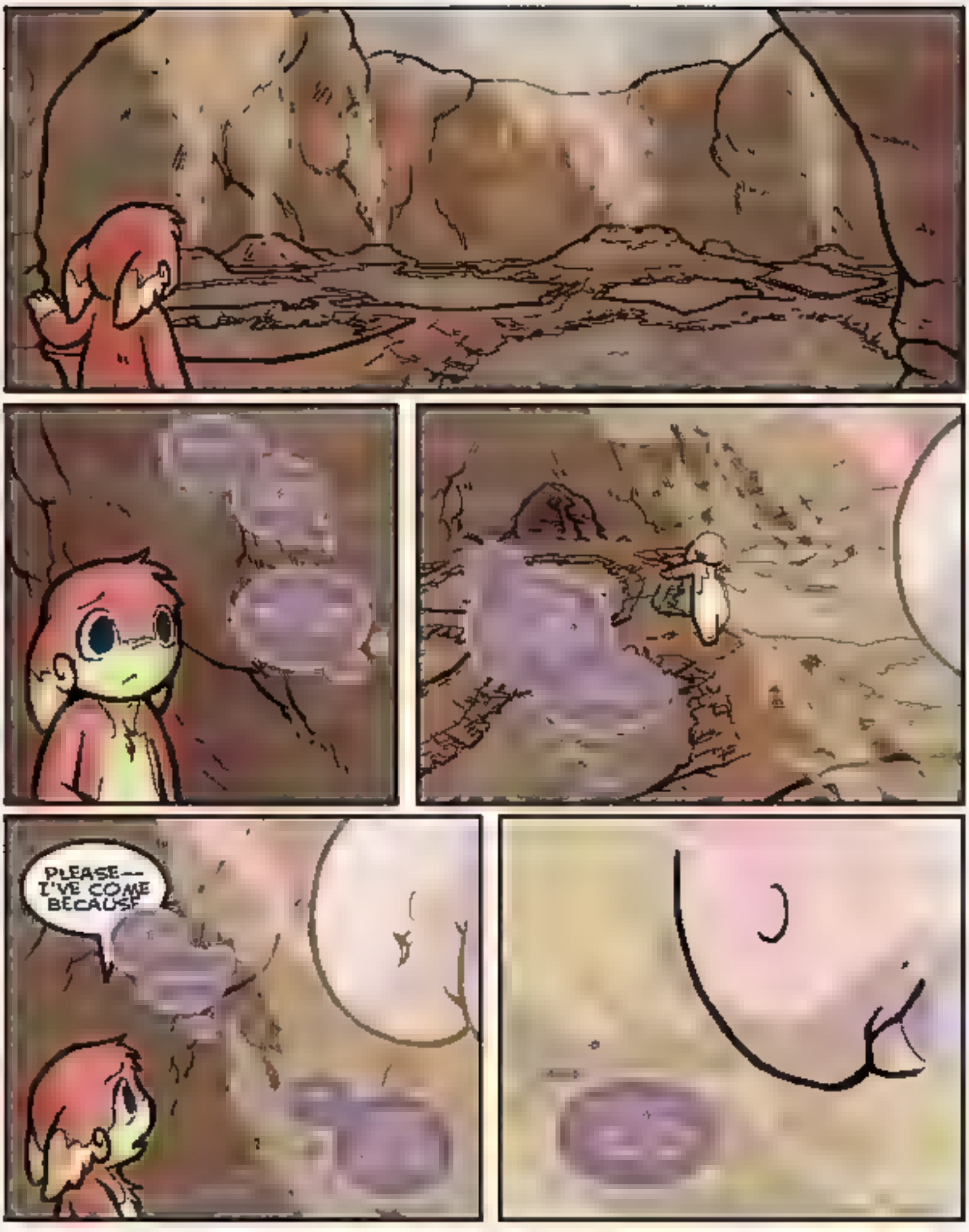

JEN, ARE YOU AWAKE?
MNH?
GENGAR
IS HE ASLEEP?
I'M NOT SURE, JEN
WELL, UM COULD YOU TELL HIM.
TELL HIM I'LL BE BACK SOON
BYE

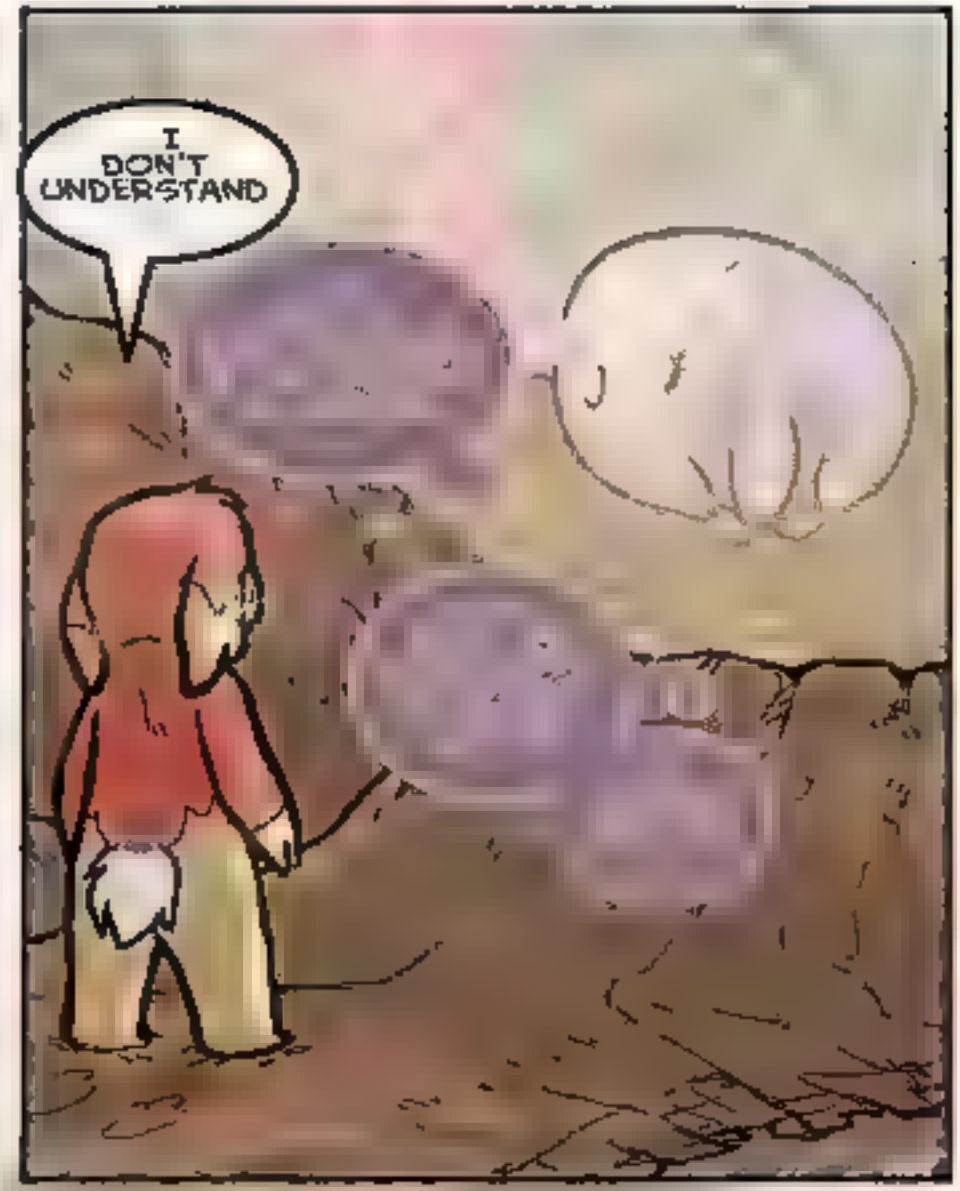
GO TAKE YOUR MEDS, OLD MAN.
DID YOU HAVE ANY DREAMS LAST NIGHT?
NO.
ARE YOU SURE?
IF YOU REMEMBERED YOU'D ASK.
GENGAR, YOU MUST BE CAREFUL.
HE CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS IF YOU LET HIM IN
YEAH, I THINK I SAW THAT SIDE OF HIM ALREADY.
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE MESS WITH MY HEAD, AND I ESPECIALLY DON'T LIKE IT WHEN THEY INVADE MY DREAMS.
SO I'M NOT TOO INTERESTED IN ANYTHING HE'S GOT TO SAY.
[redacted] WARNED YOU NOT TO TRUST ME, RIGHT?
HE WAS CONCERNED, YES.
BUT I TOLD HIM I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOU.

HM-
YEAH?
WELL... AS LONG AS YOU TRUST HIM....
H-HOW ARE YOU DOING THIIIS?
I DUNNO! COOL HUH?!
I'M GONNA DIE

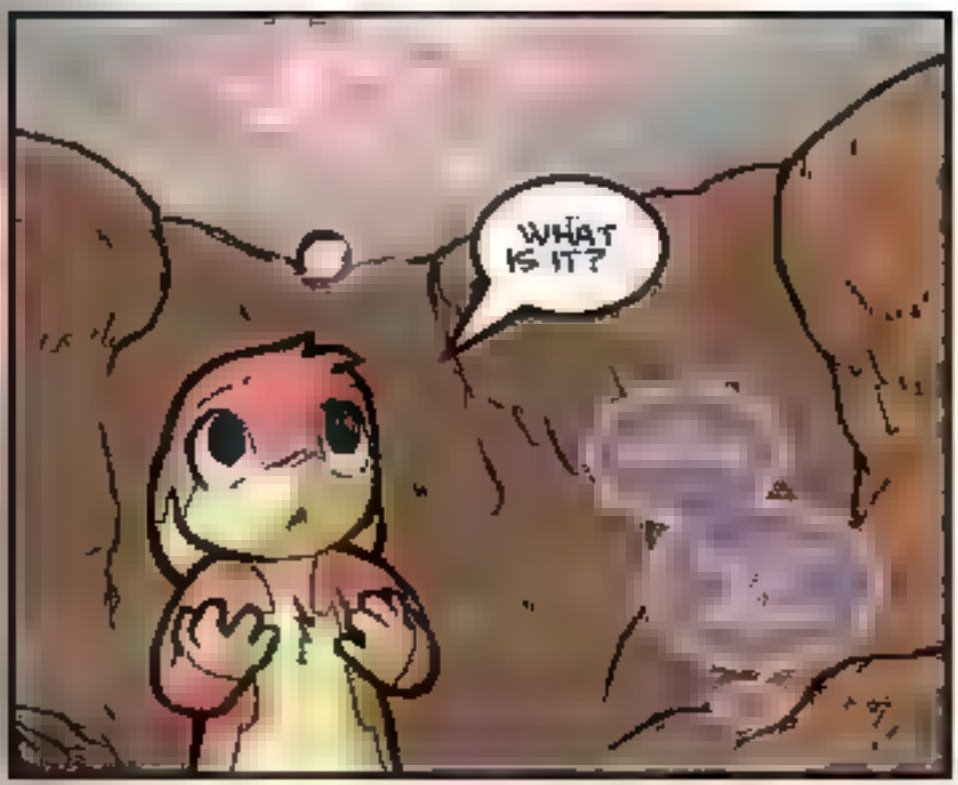
GGH
HH
IS THIS A VOLCANO..?
HAVE I GOT TO GO IN BY MY-SELF?
I AM NOW

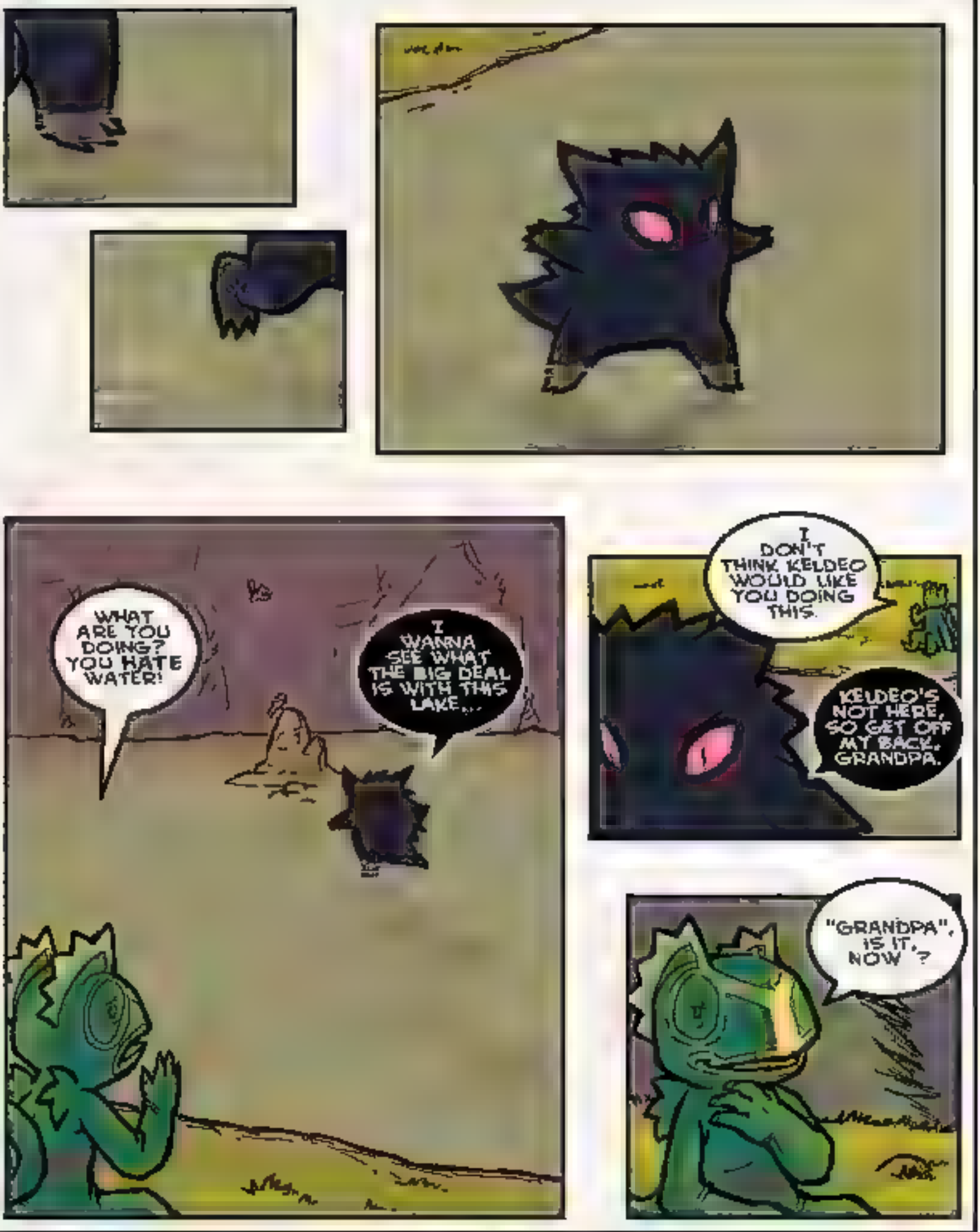
IS IT FOOD?
GUH-
N-NO ?
SNF
NO
WHAT DOES IT WANT?
MUH MUSHARNA?
DOWN THERE?
O-OKAY
HUHH


PLEASE— I'VE COME BECAUSE


I DON'T UNDERSTAND

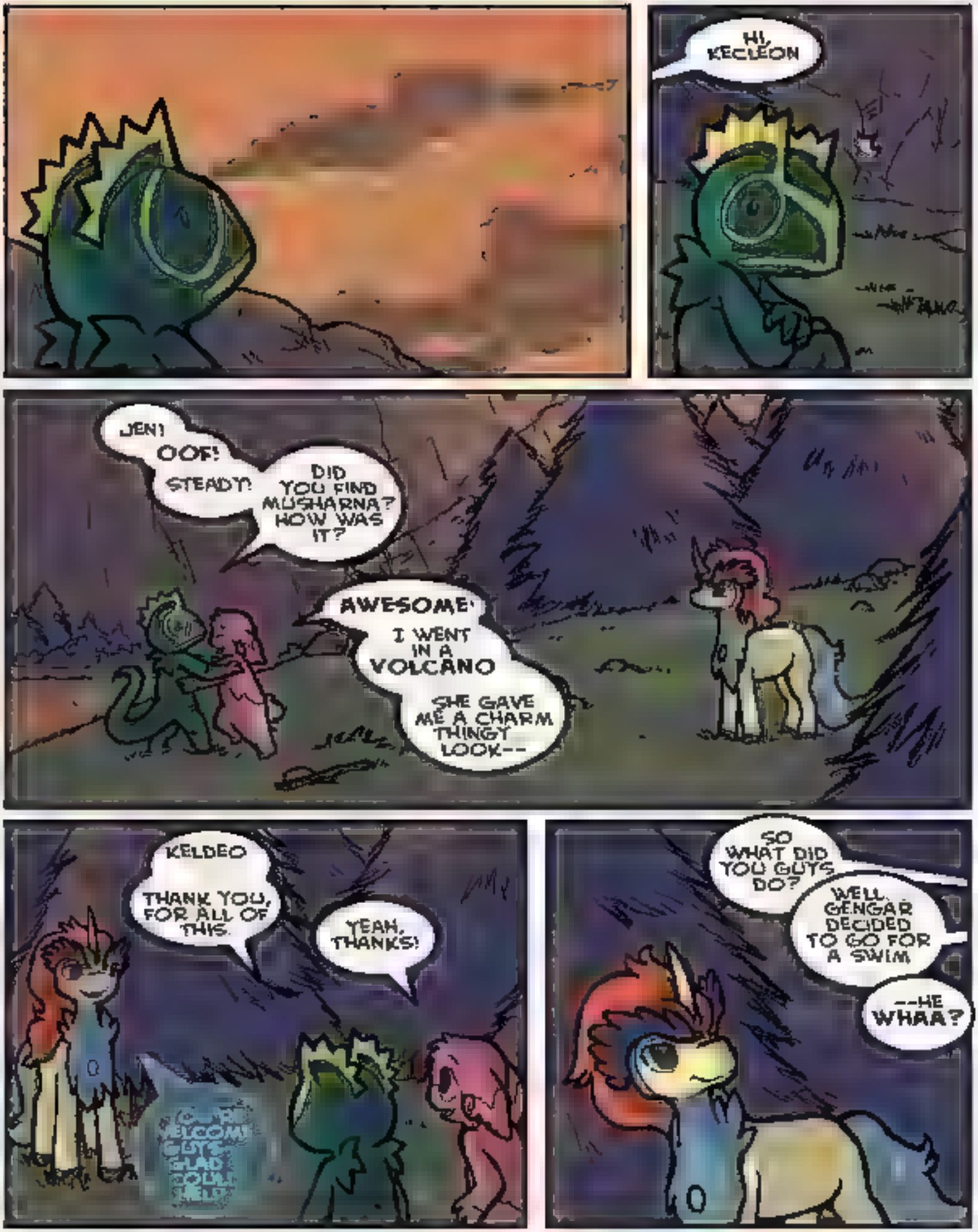
UMM BUT WHY


WHAT IS IT?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU HATE WATER!
I WANNA SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS WITH THIS LAKE...
I DON'T THINK KELDEO WOULD LIKE YOU DOING THIS.
KELDEO'S NOT HERE, SO GET OFF MY BACK, GRANDPA.
"GRANDPA", IS IT, NOW?

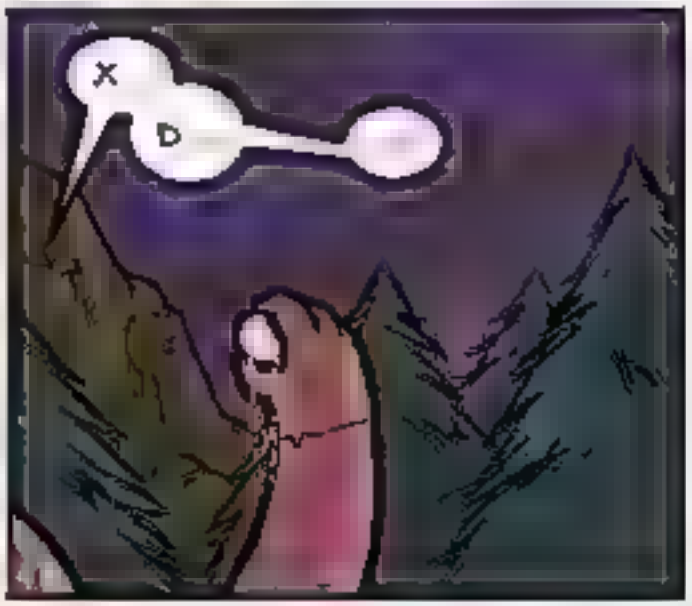
AAG.
THAT'S IT?

SATISFIED YOUR CURIOSITY?
THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
IT'S JUST AN OLD ROCK WITH SOME STUFF SCRATCHED ON
WUP!
EVER HEARD OF 'LEVITATE'? I'M TOLD IT'S QUITE USEFUL.
SHUT IT, GRANDPA.


HI, KECLEON
JEN!
OOF!
STEADY!
DID YOU FIND MUSHARNA? HOW WAS IT?
AWESOME! I WENT IN A VOLCANO
SHE GAVE ME A CHARM THINGY LOOK--
KELDEO
THANK YOU, FOR ALL OF THIS.
YEAH, THANKS!
SO WHAT DID YOU GUYS DO?
WELL, GENGAR DECIDED TO GO FOR A SWIM
--HE WHAA?

HEARD YA FELL IIIN~♪
HEY!
X.D OH-OH-TWO?
—YOU WHAT?
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.
CAN'T YOU READ
YOU THINK I'M DUMB?
'COURSE I CAN READ, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY KIND OF KANJI TO ME...
WHAT'S A KANJI?
I—
NEVER MIND.
WHAT'S IT MEAN, THEN?

I DUNNO IT'S JUST RANDOM
WHY?
WHAT'S IT FROM?
DARKRAI. IT'S ON HIS ARM...
LIKE, BRANDED OR SOMETHING.
BRANDED?
THE WAY YOU WROTE IT, THOUGH
IT'S WEIRD
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
WHAT? AND WHEN?
I DUNNO
I THINK I WAS REALLY LITTLE
TRY TO REMEMBER, OKAY?
'CAUSE I'M PRETTY SURE THAT THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT.
THINK ABOUT IT TONIGHT?
YEAH, OKAY.
I'LL TRY


X
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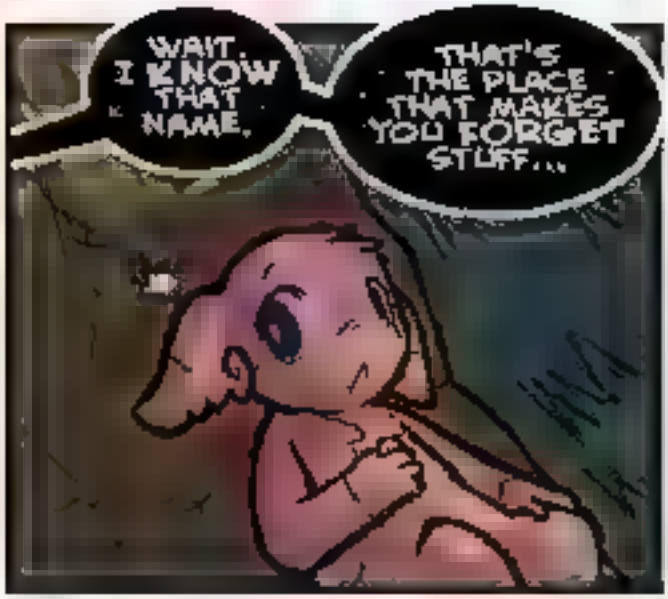
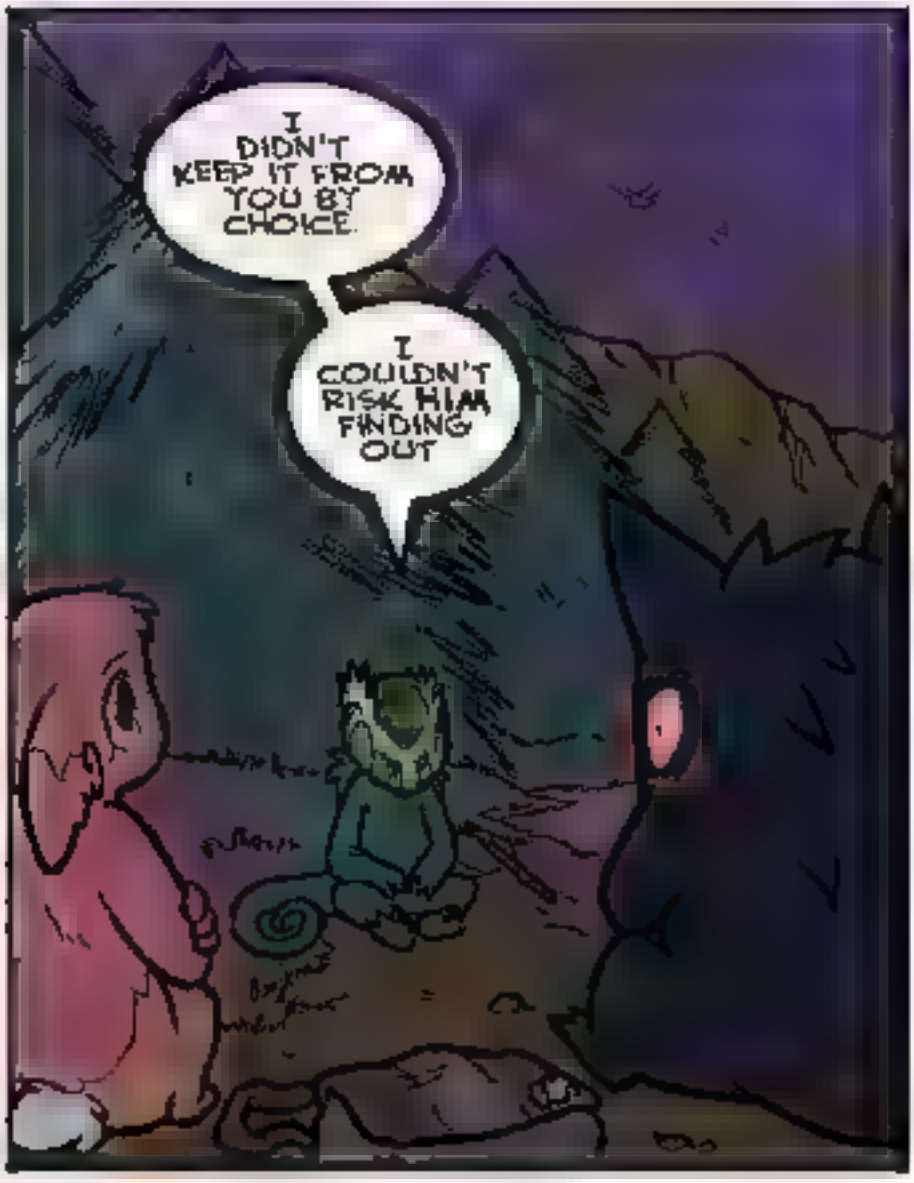

WAIT, I KNOW THAT NAME.
THAT'S THE PLACE THAT MAKES YOU FORGET STUFF...

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
PURITY FOREST!
STEP INTO THAT PLACE AND ALL YOUR MEMORIES
POOF! GONE!
COUNT ME OUT. I'VE LOST ENOUGH ALREADY.

GENGAR, I PROMISE YOU, THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS
YEAH? AND HOW WOULD YOU--

--
THAT'S IT... YOU'VE COME FROM THERE.


I DIDN'T KEEP IT FROM YOU BY CHOICE.
I COULDN'T RISK HIM FINDING OUT

SO LET ME GUESS-- THE RIVER MEETING WAS NO ACCIDENT?
CELEBI SENT YOU TO HELP US?

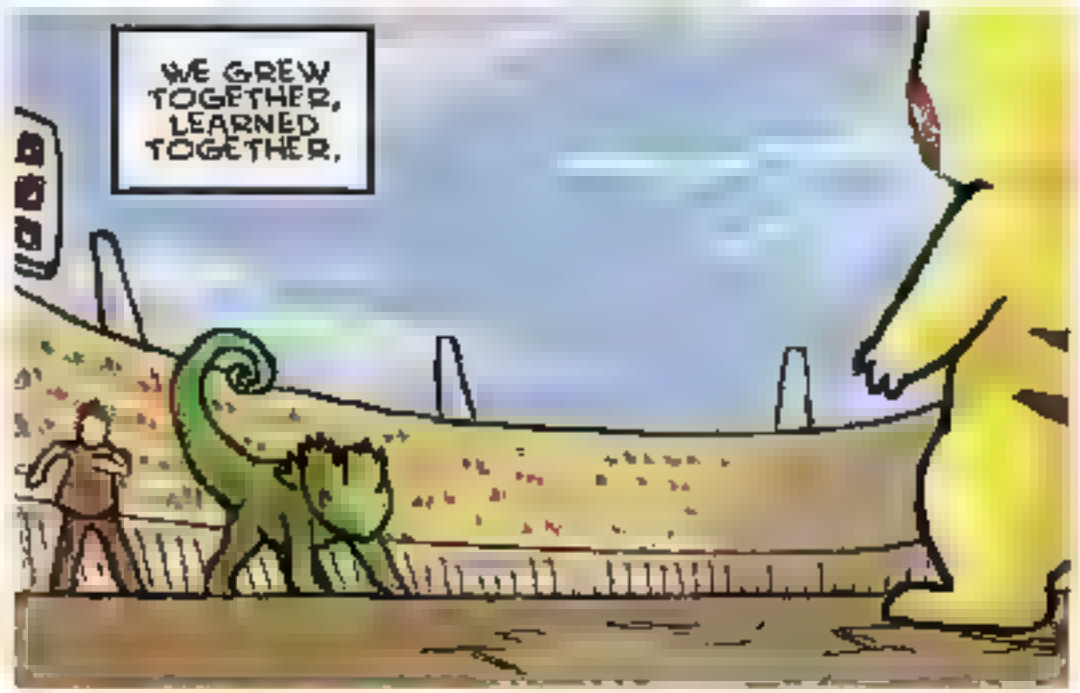
CELEBI...?

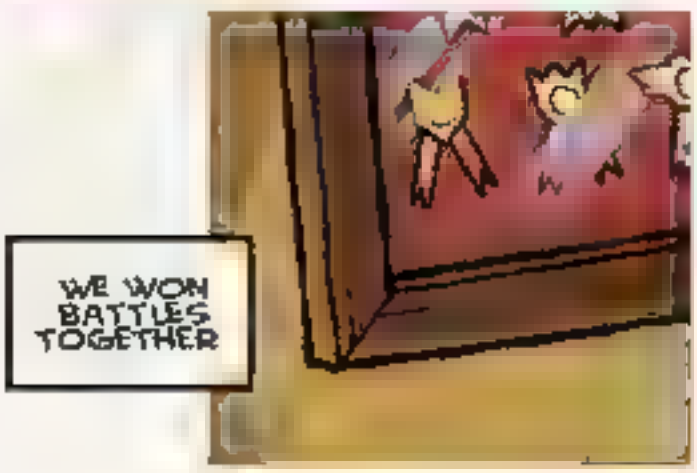
CELEBI IS THE GUARDIAN OF PURITY FOREST,
AND
MY FRIEND
I SUPPOSE I HAD BETTER TELL YOU I--
FORGIVE ME THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT

SHE SAVED ME FROM MYSELF, AFTER I LOST MY PARTNER
HE AND I.
WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER
FROM THE TIME I WAS BORN

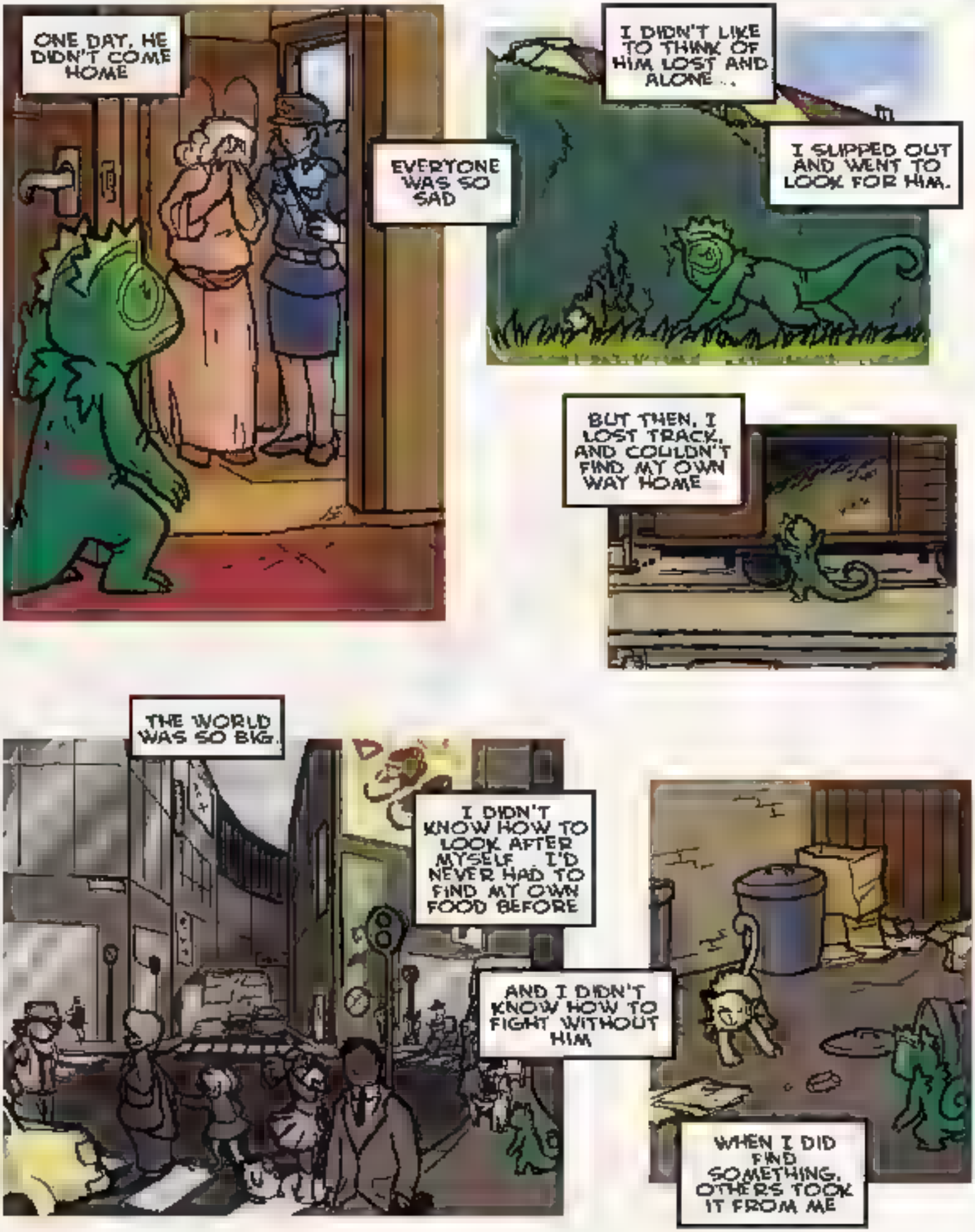
I NEVER KNEW MY PARENTS, THOUGH I HEARD THEY WERE BOTH CHAMPIONS.
COOL MOM!

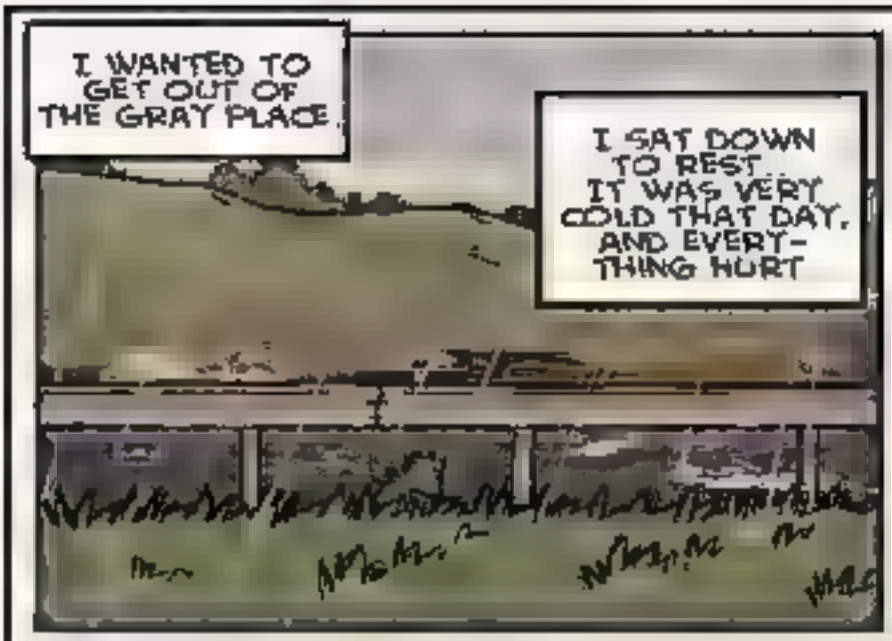
HE WAS MOTHER AND FATHER TO ME.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM NOW THEY'RE FROM HOENN, AND THEY'RE RARE

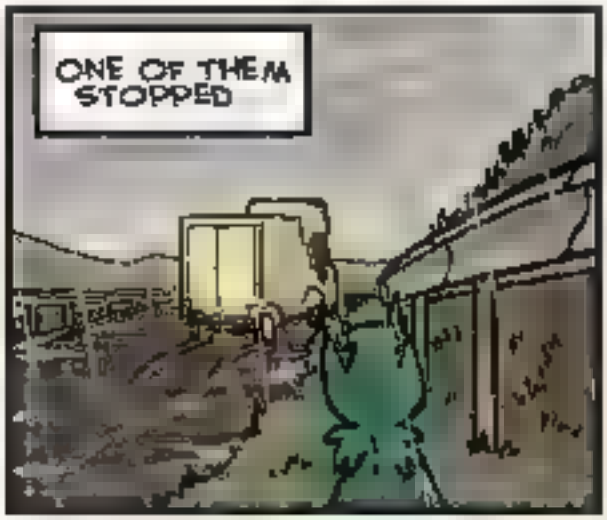

WE GREW TOGETHER, LEARNED TOGETHER,
WE FOUGHT BATTLES TOGETHER

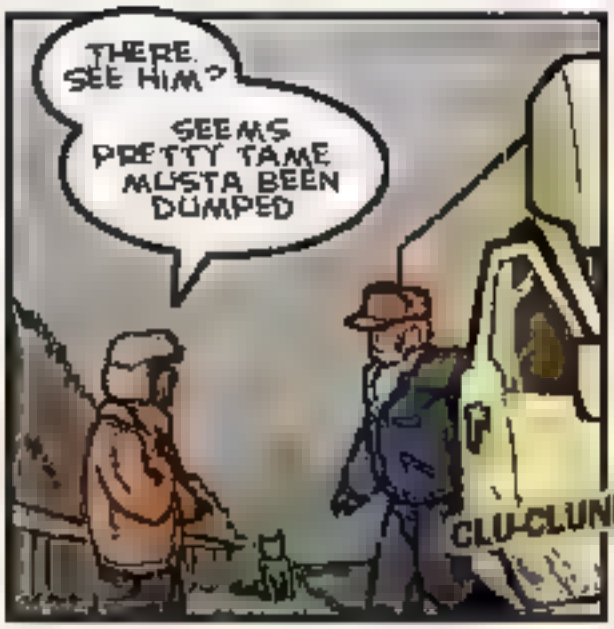

WE WON BATTLES TOGETHER

WE GREW OLD TOGETHER


ONE DAY, HE DIDN'T COME HOME
EVERYONE WAS SO SAD
I DIDN'T LIKE TO THINK OF HIM LOST AND ALONE...
I SLIPPED OUT AND WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM.
BUT THEN, I LOST TRACK, AND COULDN'T FIND MY OWN WAY HOME
THE WORLD WAS SO BIG.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO LOOK AFTER MYSELF. I'D NEVER HAD TO FIND MY OWN FOOD BEFORE
AND I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT WITHOUT HIM
WHEN I DID FIND SOMETHING, OTHERS TOOK IT FROM ME

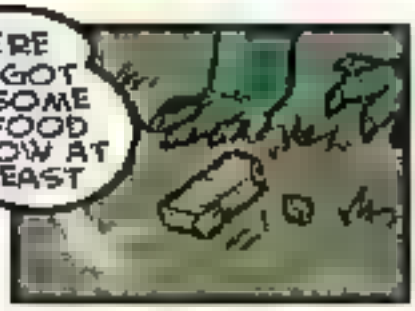

I WANTED TO GET OUT OF THE GRAY PLACE.
I SAT DOWN TO REST. IT WAS VERY COLD THAT DAY, AND EVERY-THING HURT


ONE OF THEM STOPPED

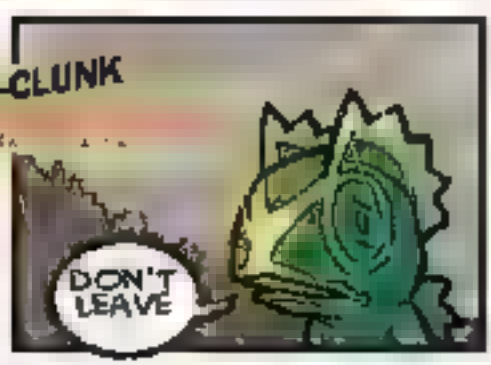

THERE. SEE HIM?
SEEMS PRETTY TAME. MUSTA BEEN DUMPED
CLU-CLUNK

DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
SHOULD WE TAKE HIM TO A POKEMON CENTER?
AIN'T GOT TIME. JUST LEAVE HIM, MAN. OLD FELLA'S PROBABLY ON THE WAY OUT ANYWAY

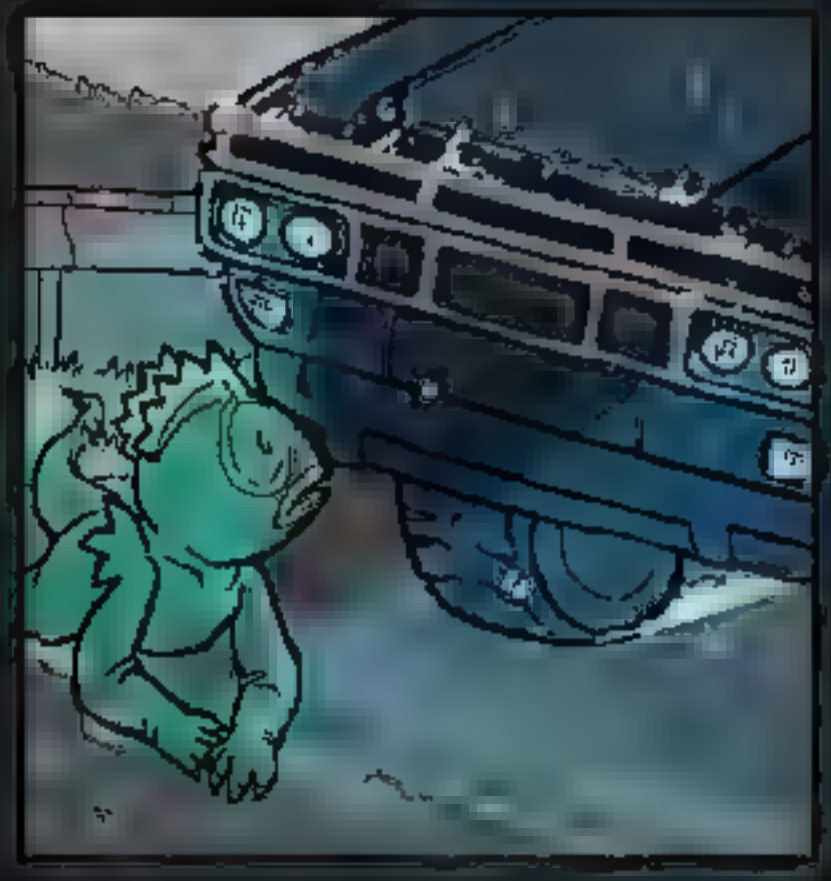
I DON'T LIKE LEAVING HIM OUT HERE WITH ALL THE TRAFFIC.
EHH.

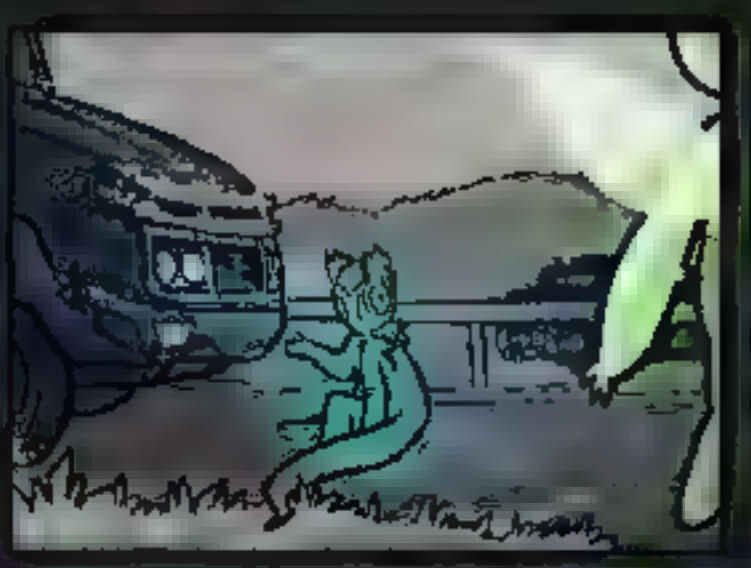

THERE GOT SOME FOOD NOW AT LEAST

COME ON WE GOTTA GO

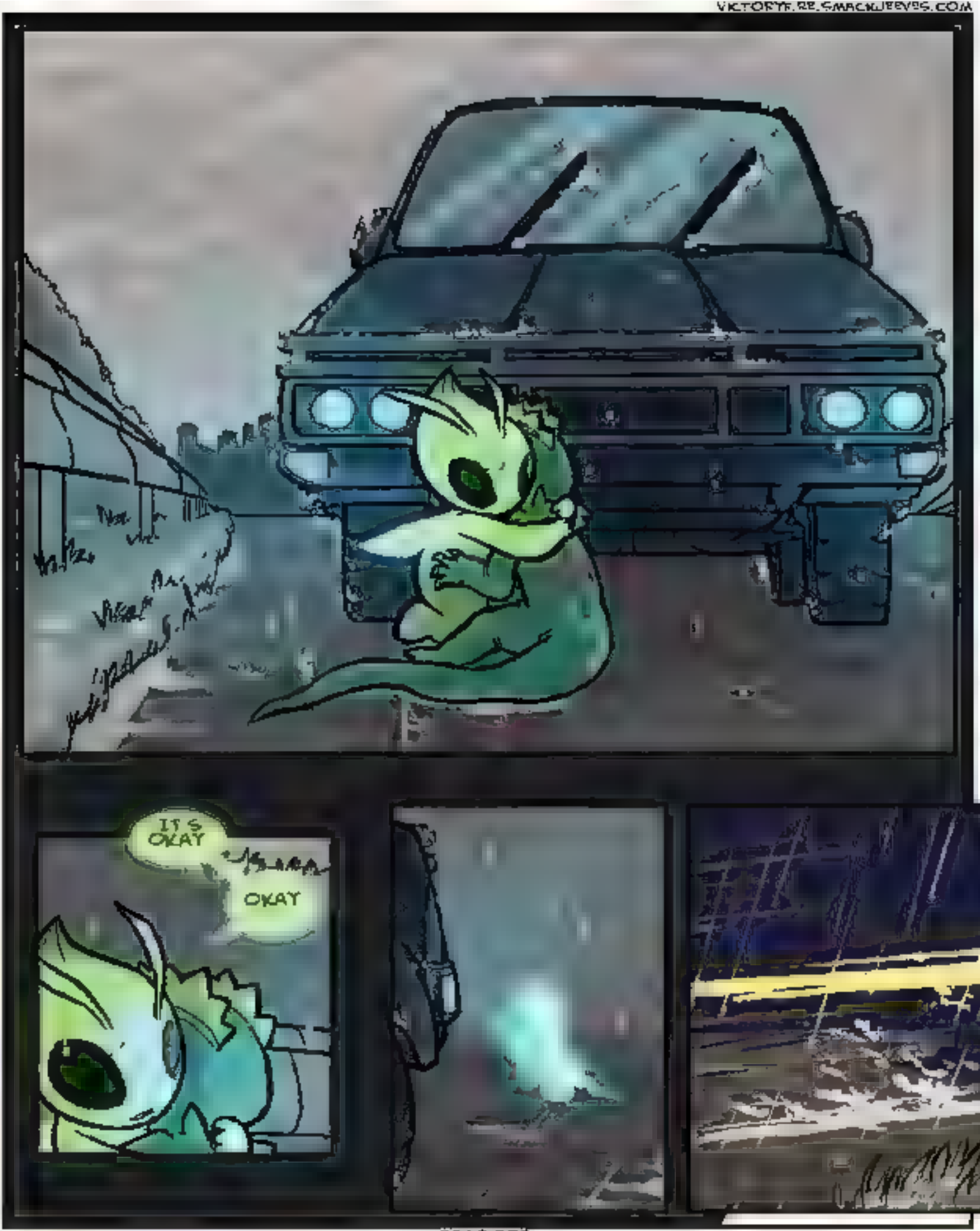

CLU-CLUNK
DON'T LEAVE

-GAAK!
HHUH
HH
HH



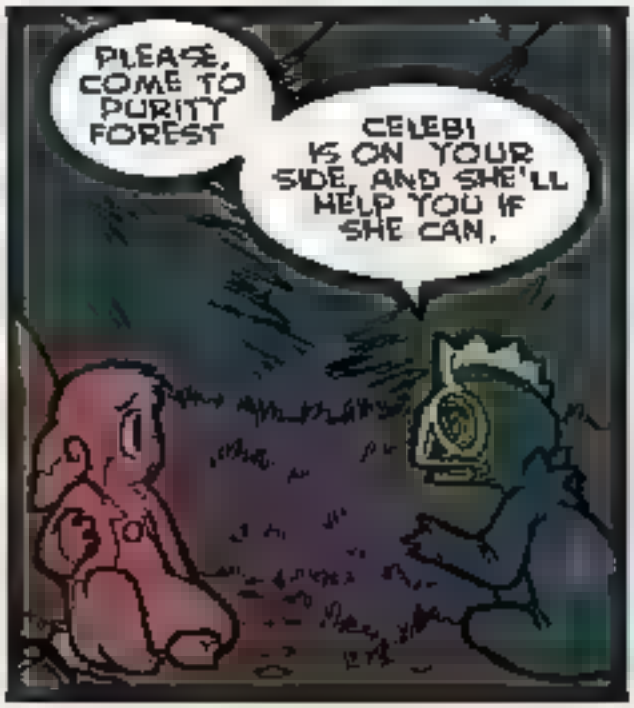


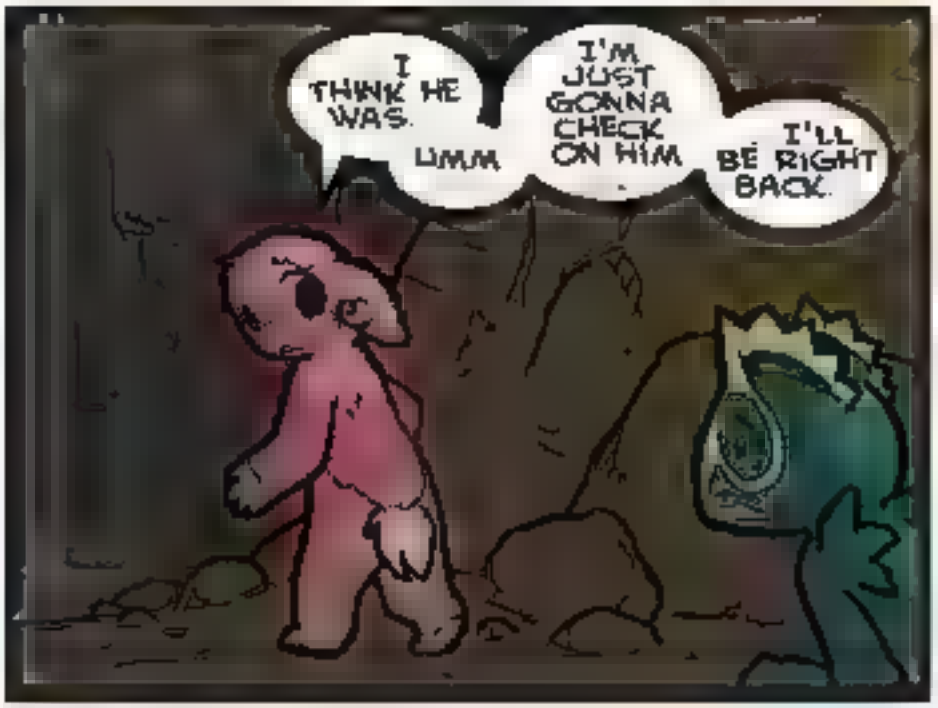
YOU
YOU STOPPED IT?
WHO ARE YOU? DON'T INTER-FERE!
PUT IT BACK! PUT IT BACK LIKE IT WAS!
YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO DIE?
WHY?
BECAUSE I'M OLD! I'M OLD AND NOBODY WANTS ME!
IT'S NOT YOUR TIME
DON'T GO LIKE THIS
COME WITH ME
COME HOME
WILL YOU COME?


IT'S OKAY
OKAY

GENGAR?

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT UPSET HIM, WITH HIS HISTORY
IT'S OLD NOW, AND IT REALLY DOESN'T HURT ME MUCH ANY MORE
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BUT NO, I THINK I HAD TO TELL YOU.
YOU TWO HAD ALREADY GUESSED SOME OF IT ANYWAY, HADN'T YOU?


PLEASE, COME TO PURITY FOREST
CELEBI IS ON YOUR SIDE, AND SHE'LL HELP YOU IF SHE CAN.


I THINK HE WAS.
UMM
I'M JUST GONNA CHECK ON HIM
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
YOU SURE?

HM. SO...
KECLEON'S HUMANS REALLY MESSED HIM UP, HUH?

BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE HIS OWNER REALLY LOVED HIM.
YEAH, SURE DID.
AND YOU THINK THAT DID HIM ANY GOOD?

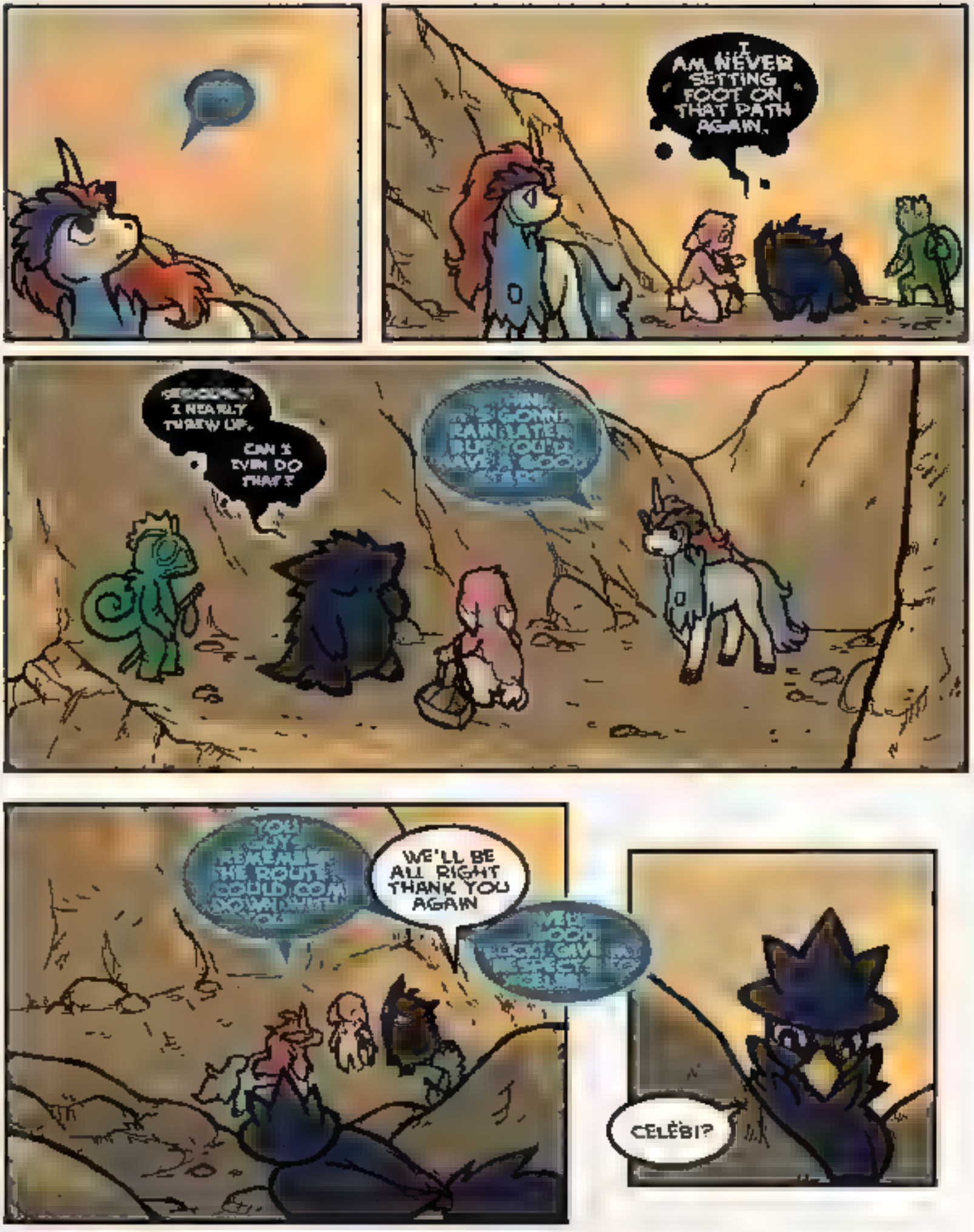
...FIRST, THEY STOLE HIM FROM HIS MOM SO HE IMPRINTS ON THE KID INSTEAD...
THEN ALL HIS LIFE HE'S TAUGHT TO KEEP PUSHING EVEN WHEN IT HURTS...
THAT WORKS WHEN THERE'S SOMEONE TO TELL THEM TO STOP, BUT NOT OUT HERE!
IF HE DIDN'T TREAT EVERYTHING LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO WIN A GYM BADGE, HIS LEG WOULD BE FINE!

WE TRAIN THEM TO DO THAT, TO GIVE US EVERYTHING, AND THEN THEY CAN'T LET GO...

...EVEN WHEN THEY NEED TO...
EVEN WHEN...
THEIR TRAINER WASN'T WORTH IT...

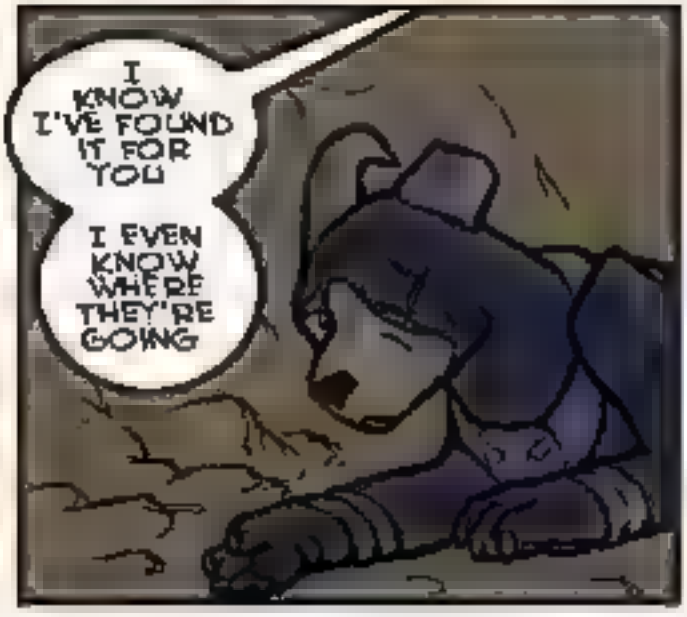
THEY SAY PARTNER
BUT WE SAY TRAINER DID YOU NOTICE THAT?

KECLEON WANTS US TO GO TO PURITY FOREST
THEN I GUESS THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
IF YOU ARE.

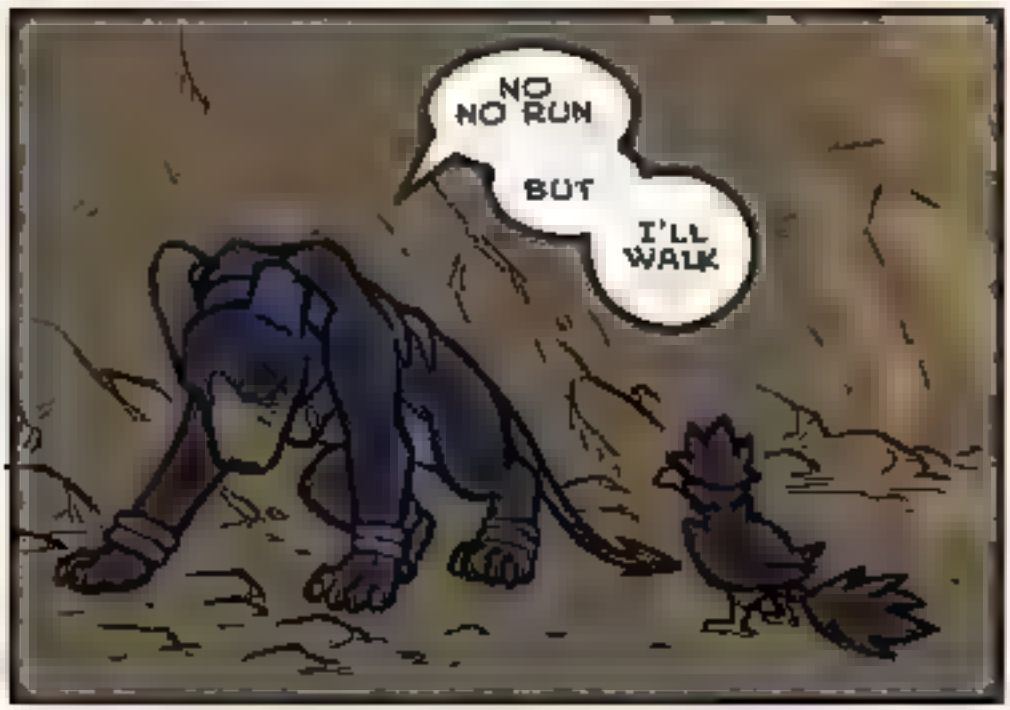

I AM NEVER SETTING FOOT ON THAT PATH AGAIN.
I NEARLY THREW UP.
CAN I EVEN DO THAT?
WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT THANK YOU AGAIN
CELEBI?

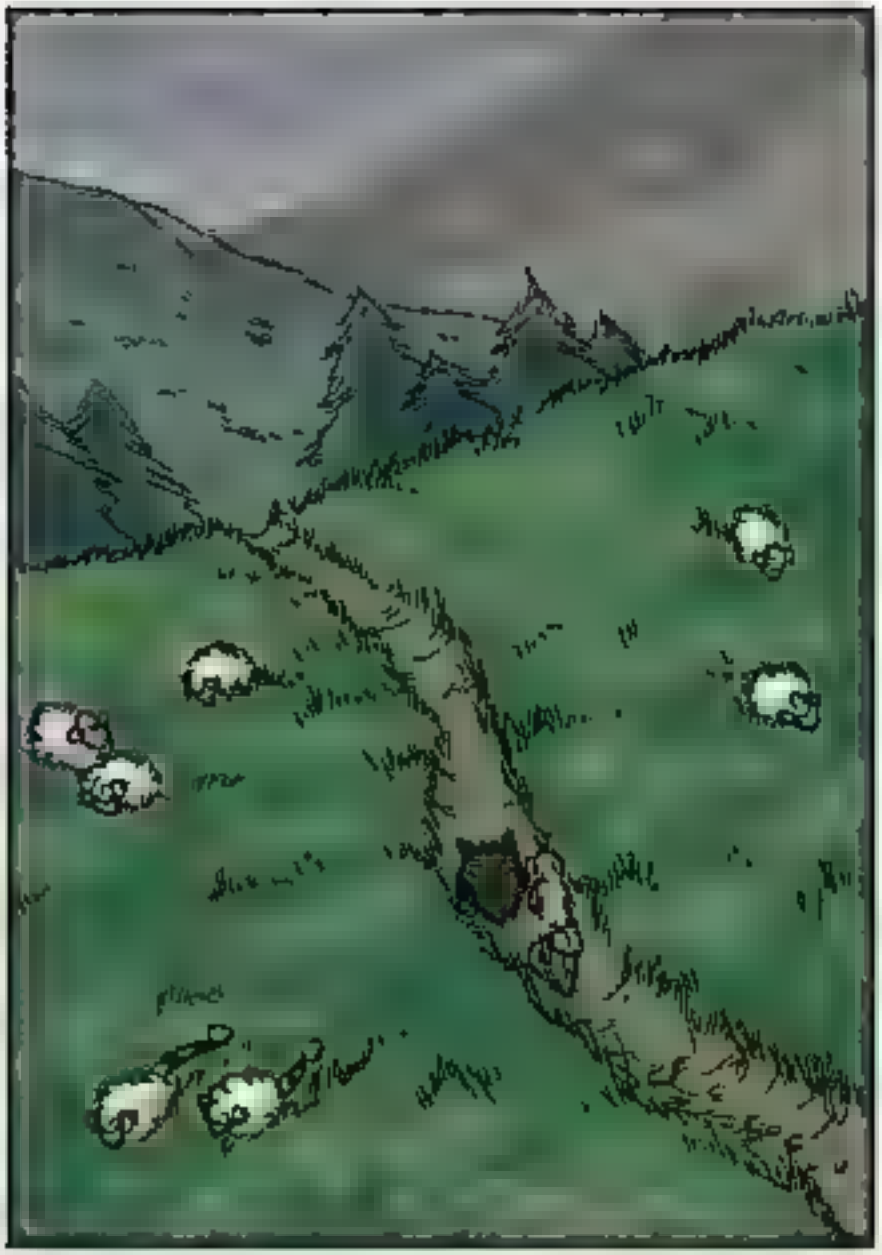
ALL RIGHT ARE YOU READY TO MOVE?

I . HH CAN'T I'VE LOST THE SCENT

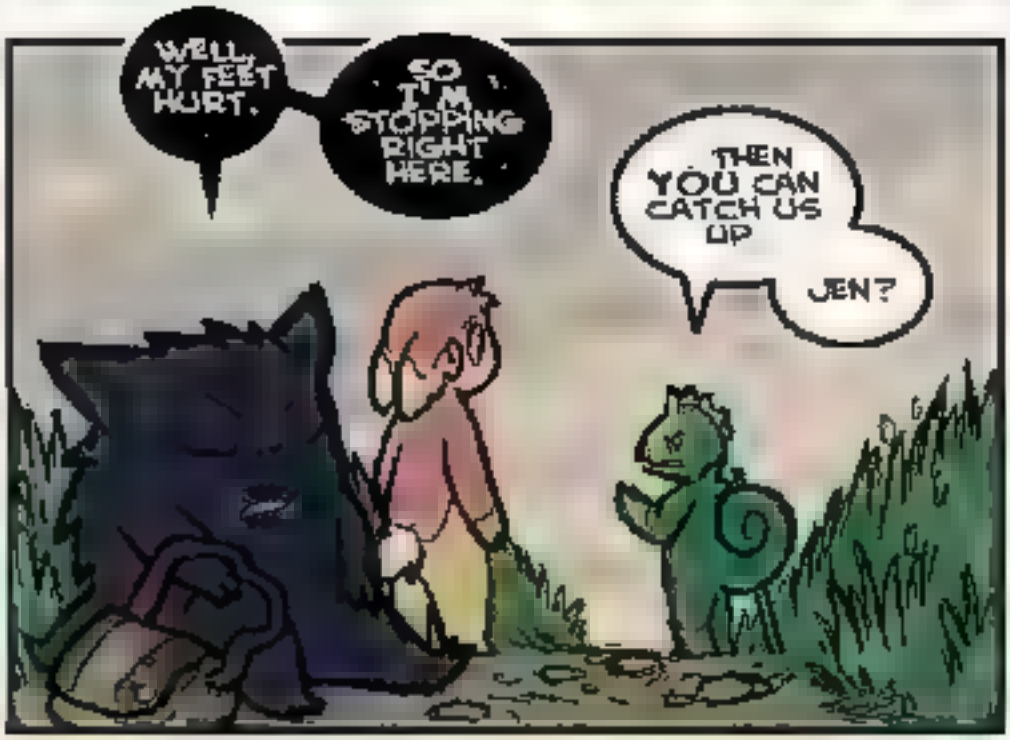

I KNOW I'VE FOUND IT FOR YOU
I EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING

IF YOU RUN, YOU COULD CATCH UP IN AN HOUR.
NO?

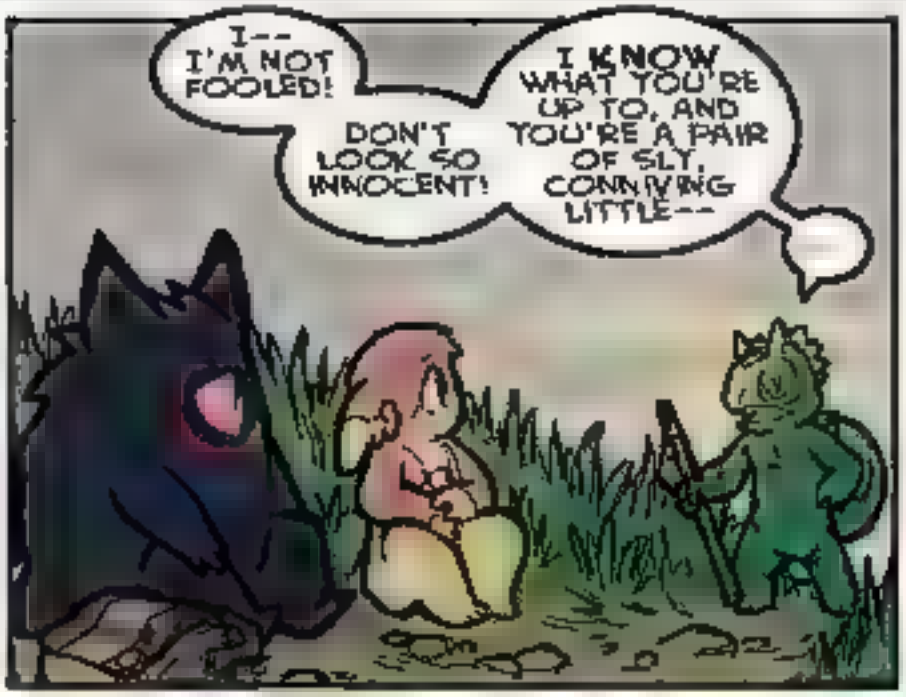

NO NO RUN
BUT I'LL WALK



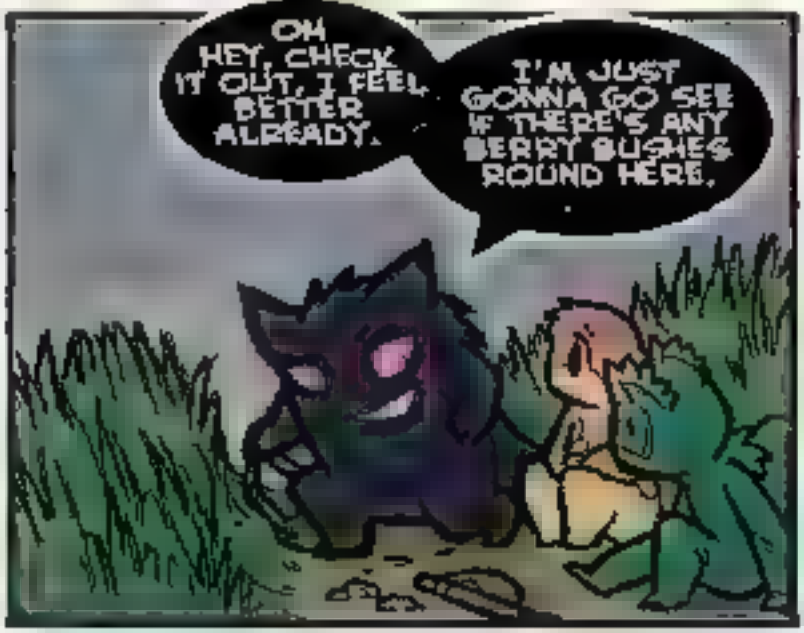
HEY, GRANDPA!
LET'S TAKE A BREAK. I'M TIRED.
NO, YOU'RE NOT IT'S ONLY BEEN AN HOUR


WELL, MY FEET HURT.
SO I'M STOPPING RIGHT HERE.
THEN YOU CAN CATCH US UP
JEN?

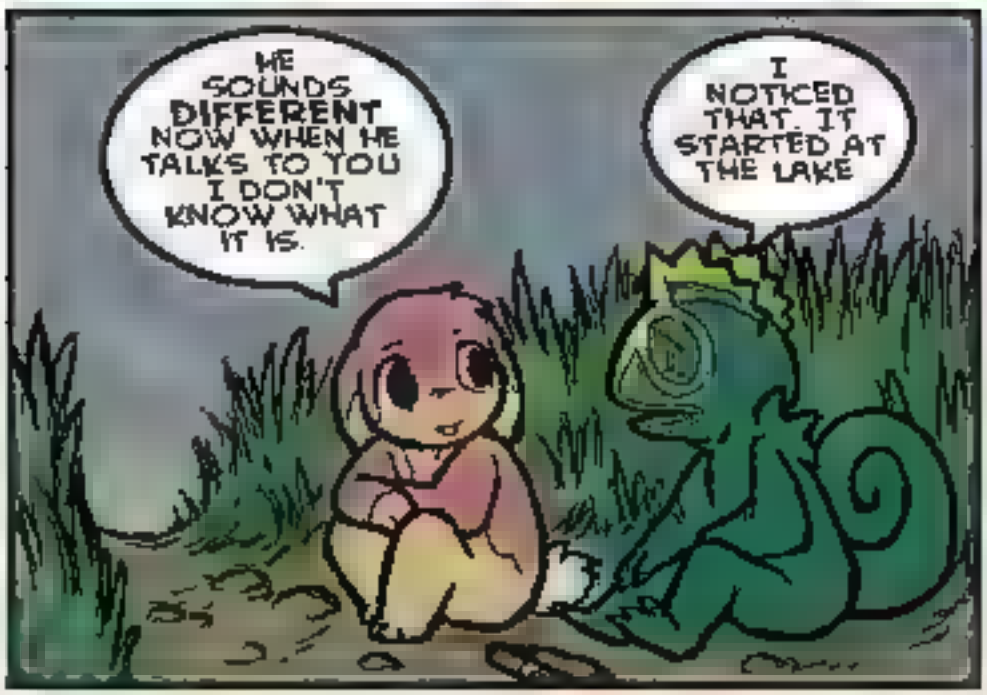
I'M TIRED TOO.


I-- I'M NOT FOOLED!
DON'T LOOK SO INNOCENT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, AND YOU'RE A PAIR OF SLY, CONNIVING LITTLE--

HHEH HAH
OH, FINE, YOU WIN, YOU EVIL GENIUSES.
BUT NOT TOO LONG, ALL RIGHT?

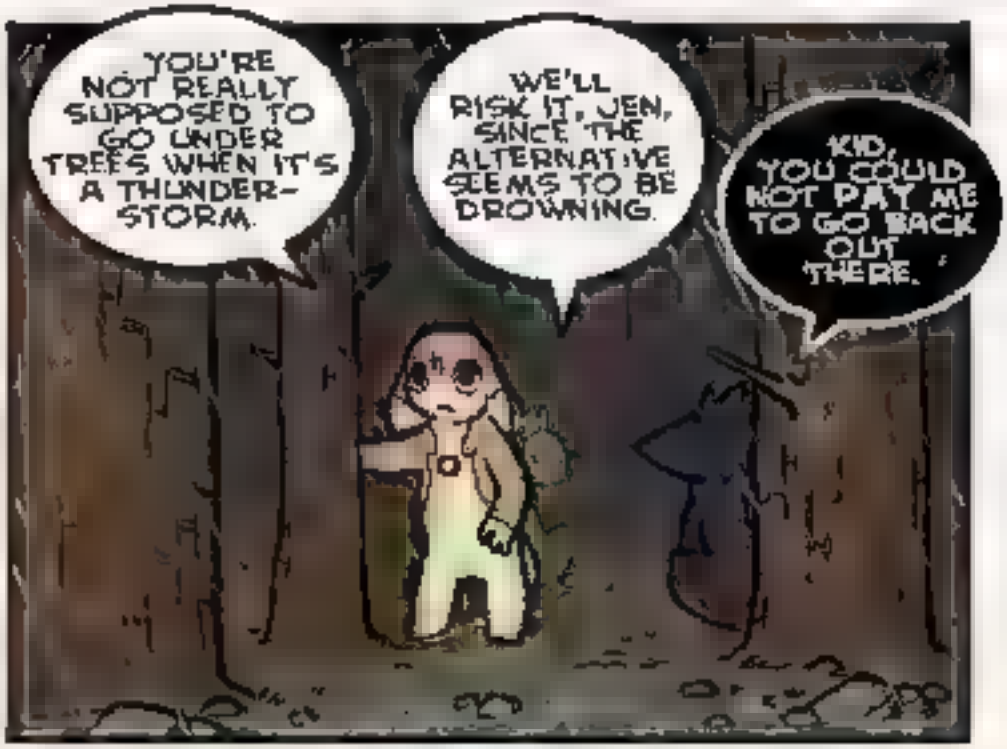

OH HEY, CHECK IT OUT, I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.
I'M JUST GONNA GO SEE IF THERE'S ANY BERRY BUSHES ROUND HERE.

WOLF?
WOLF! LOOK OUT! WOLF!
WOLF!


HE SOUNDS DIFFERENT NOW WHEN HE TALKS TO YOU I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
I NOTICED THAT. IT STARTED AT THE LAKE

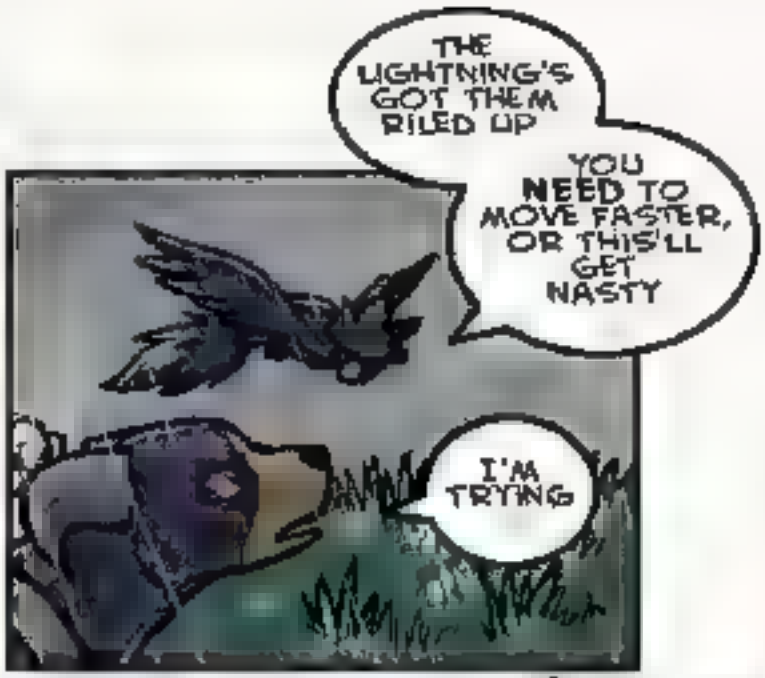
HE'S GOT A GOOD HEART IT JUST TAKES TIME TO GET AT IT UNDER ALL THE PRICKLES
REALLY, IT'S A BIT LIKE PEELING A CHESTNUT

KRAKOOM
NOT AGAIN
WHY DO I ALWAYS END UP SOAKED?
IT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO STOP I THOUGHT WE MIGHT END UP GETTING CAUGHT IN IT
HUF
WHOOF


YOU'RE NOT REALLY SUPPOSED TO GO UNDER TREES WHEN IT'S A THUNDER-STORM.
WE'LL RISK IT, JEN, SINCE THE ALTERNATIVE SEEMS TO BE DROWNING.
KID, YOU COULD NOT PAY ME TO GO BACK OUT THERE.

REALLY?
NOT EVEN IF I HAD SOME SHAVED ICE?
WHAT FLAVOR?

WOLF!
GO AWAY! WOLF!


THE LIGHTNING'S GOT THEM RILED UP
YOU NEED TO MOVE FASTER, OR THIS'LL GET NASTY
I'M TRYING

I JUST WANT TO PASS BY
LEAVE ME BE
WOLF!

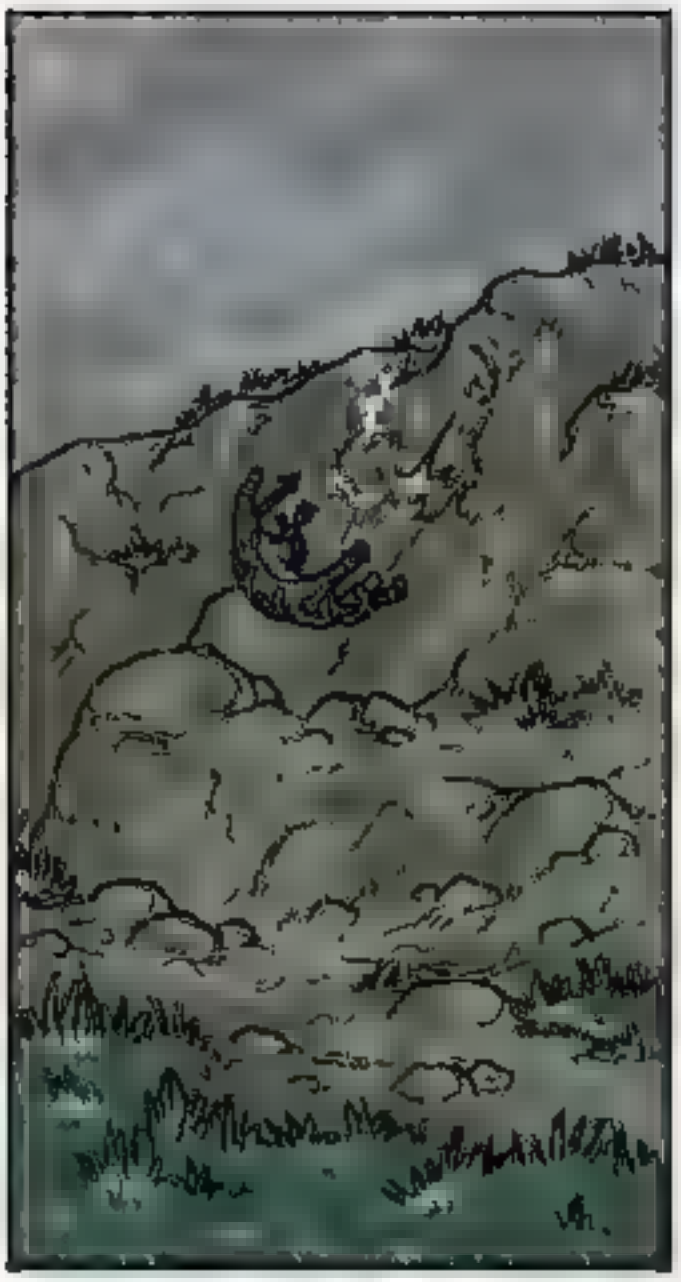
!!!

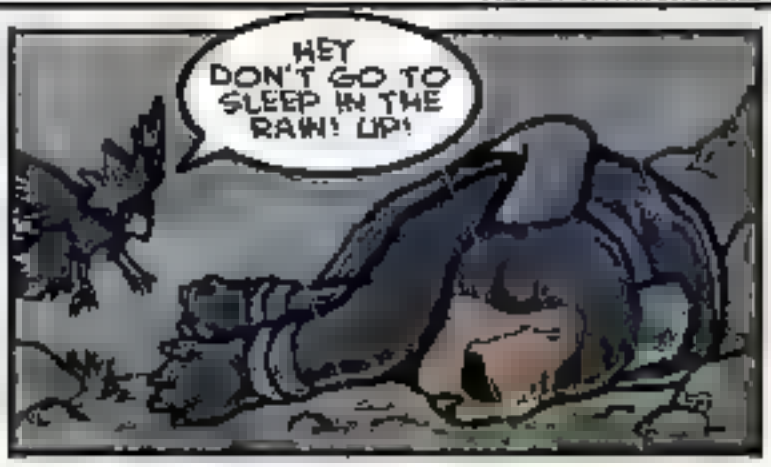
DON'T-!

AAH! FIRE WOLF!
WOLF'S ATTACKING US!
GET THE WOLF!

AAA!
FLYING WOLF!
RUN!

OVER THE RIDGE, NOW, BEFORE THEY REGROUP!
I CAN'T SEE --
THEN FOLLOW MY VOICE! THIS WAY! MOVE!
HHUH
HHUH

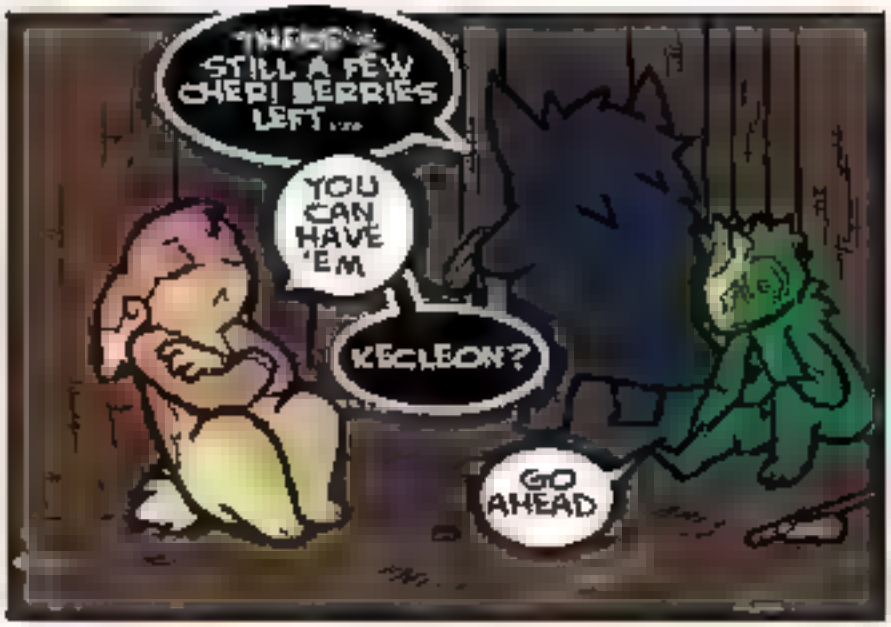


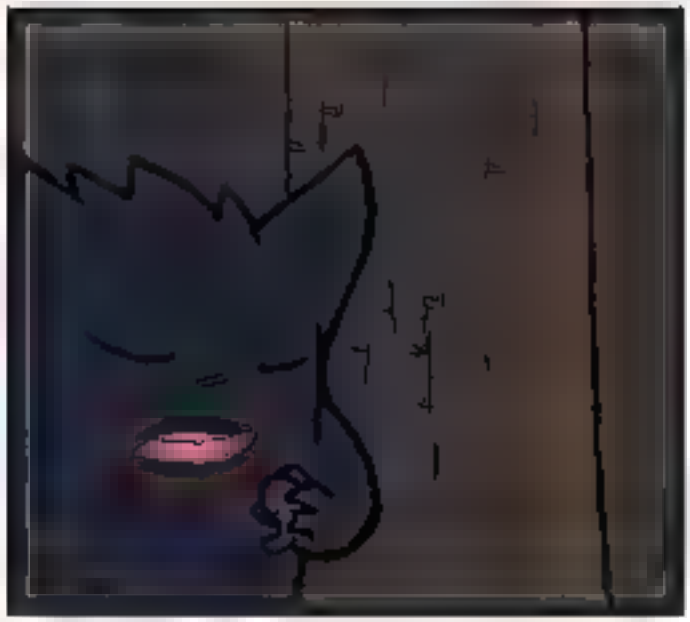

HEY DON'T GO TO SLEEP IN THE RAIN! UP!

I CAN'T

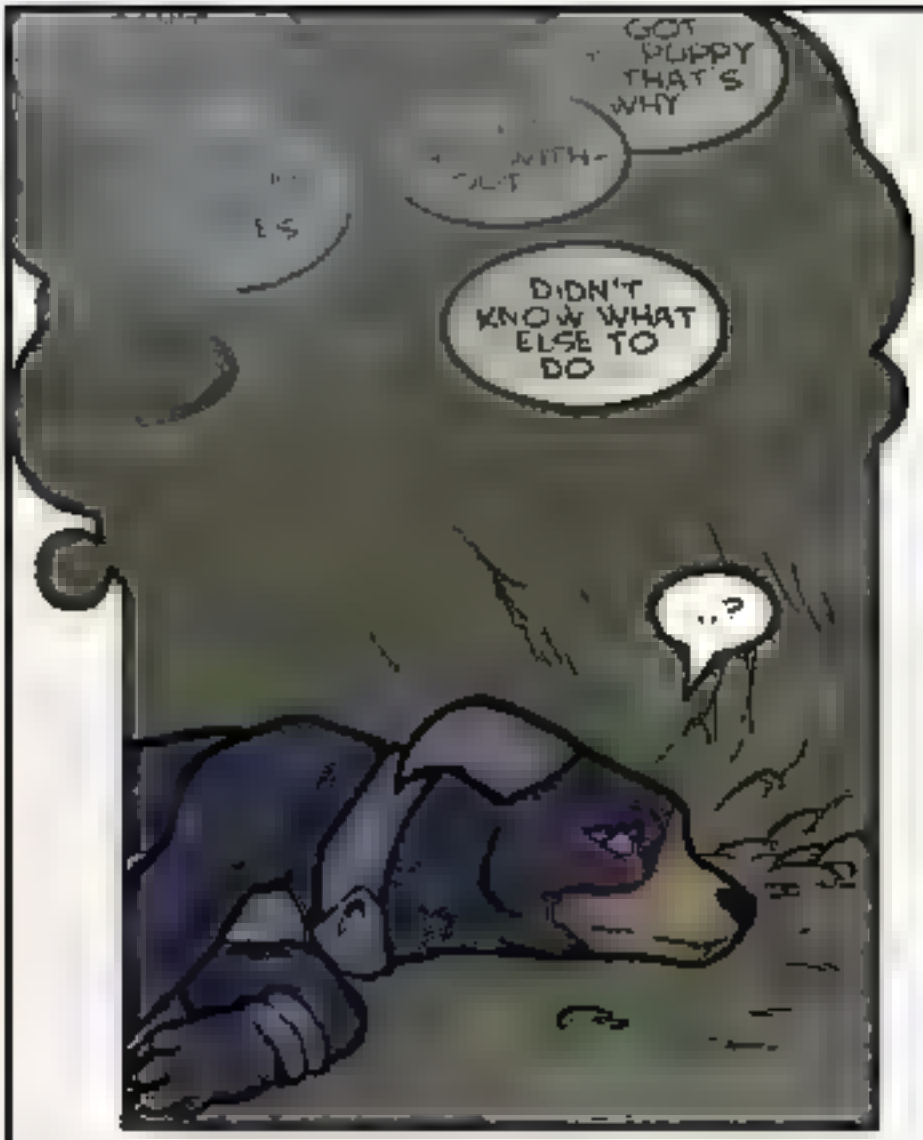
LISTEN. THERE'S A WOOD JUST HALF A MILE OFF THEY'RE IN THERE, ALL THREE OF THEM.
C'MON, YOU CAN CATCH UP NOW JUST GET UP
UP.
GET YOUR PUP BACK?

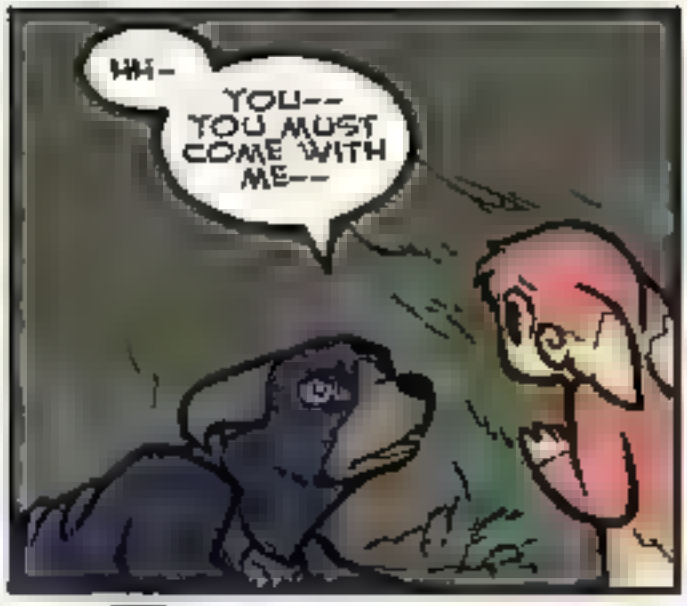
I CAN'T

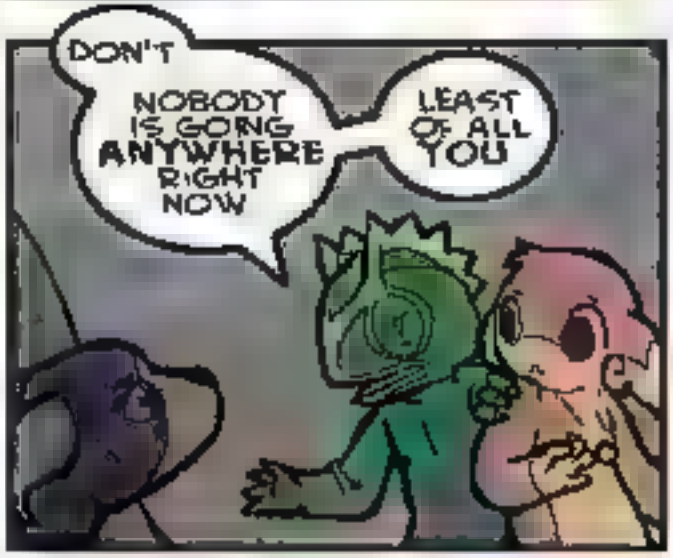

THERE'S STILL A FEW CHERI BERRIES LEFT...
YOU CAN HAVE 'EM
KECLEON?
GO AHEAD

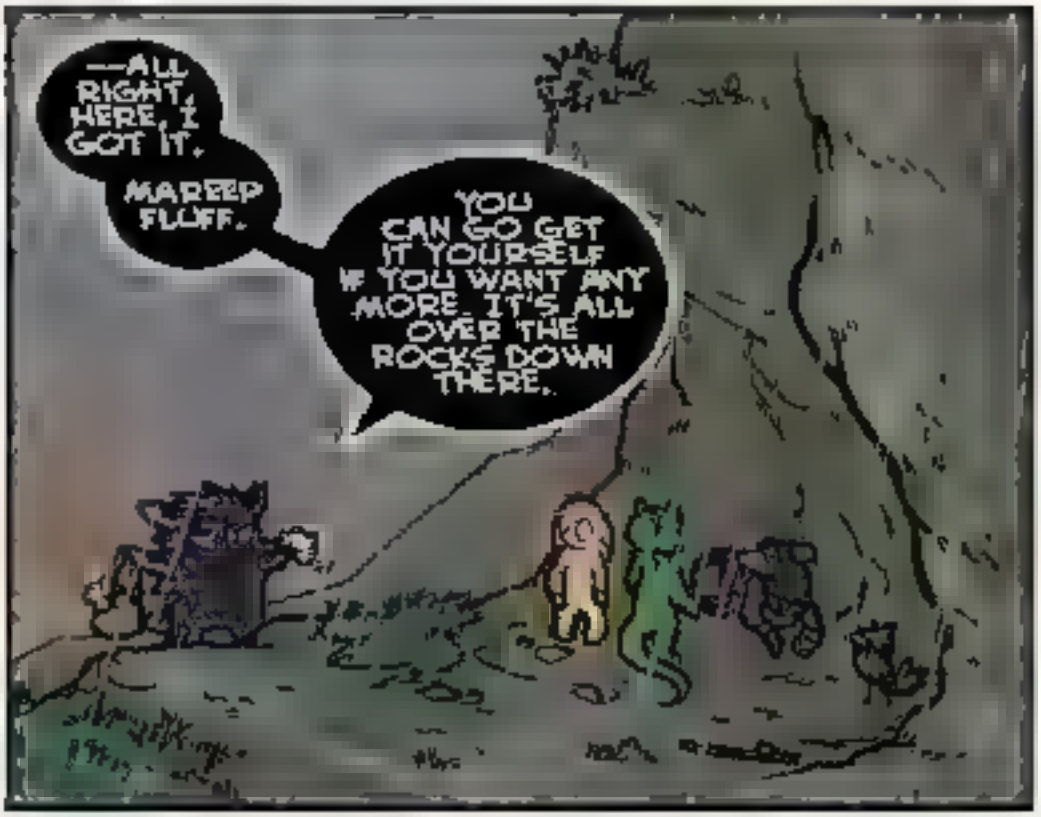


FLUT
HI.
BEFORE YOU THROW THAT
CAN WE TALK?

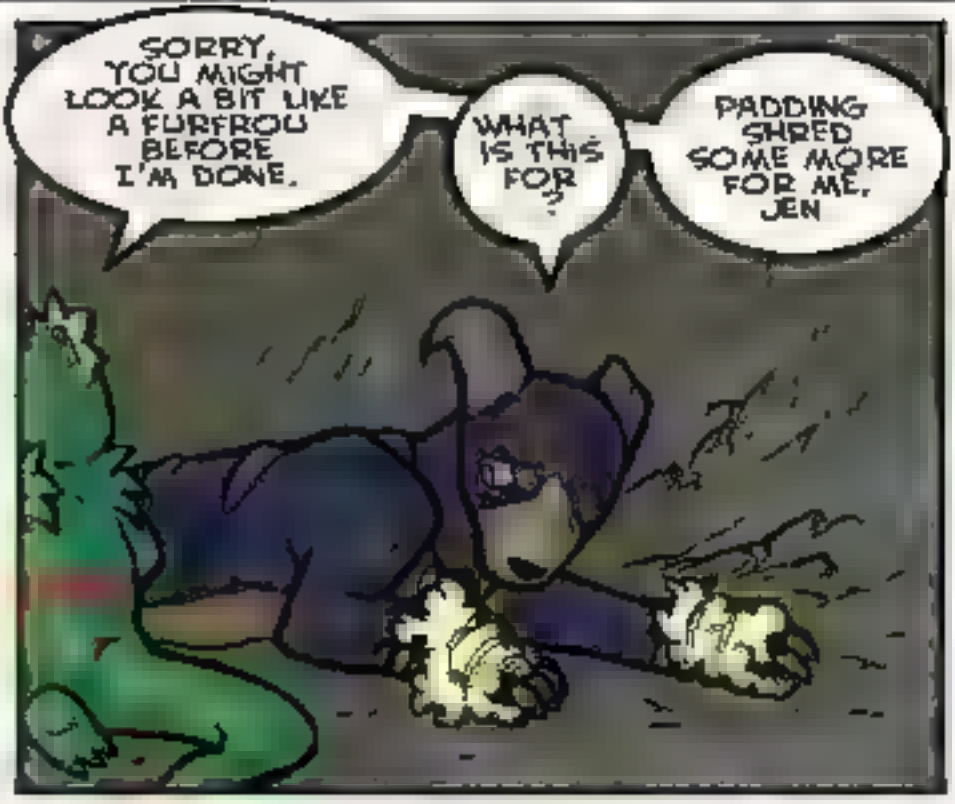

GOT PUPPY THAT'S WHY
WITH-OUT
ES
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO
..?

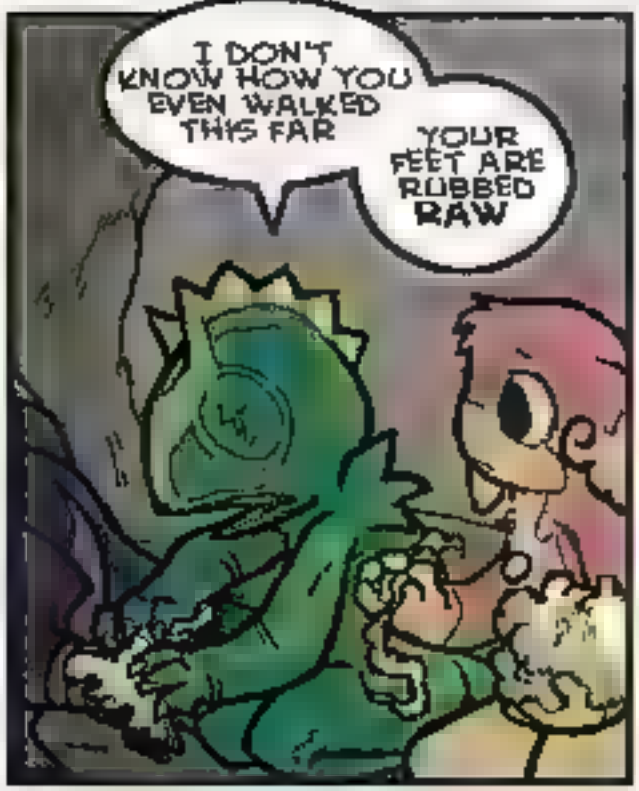

HH-
YOU-- YOU MUST COME WITH ME--

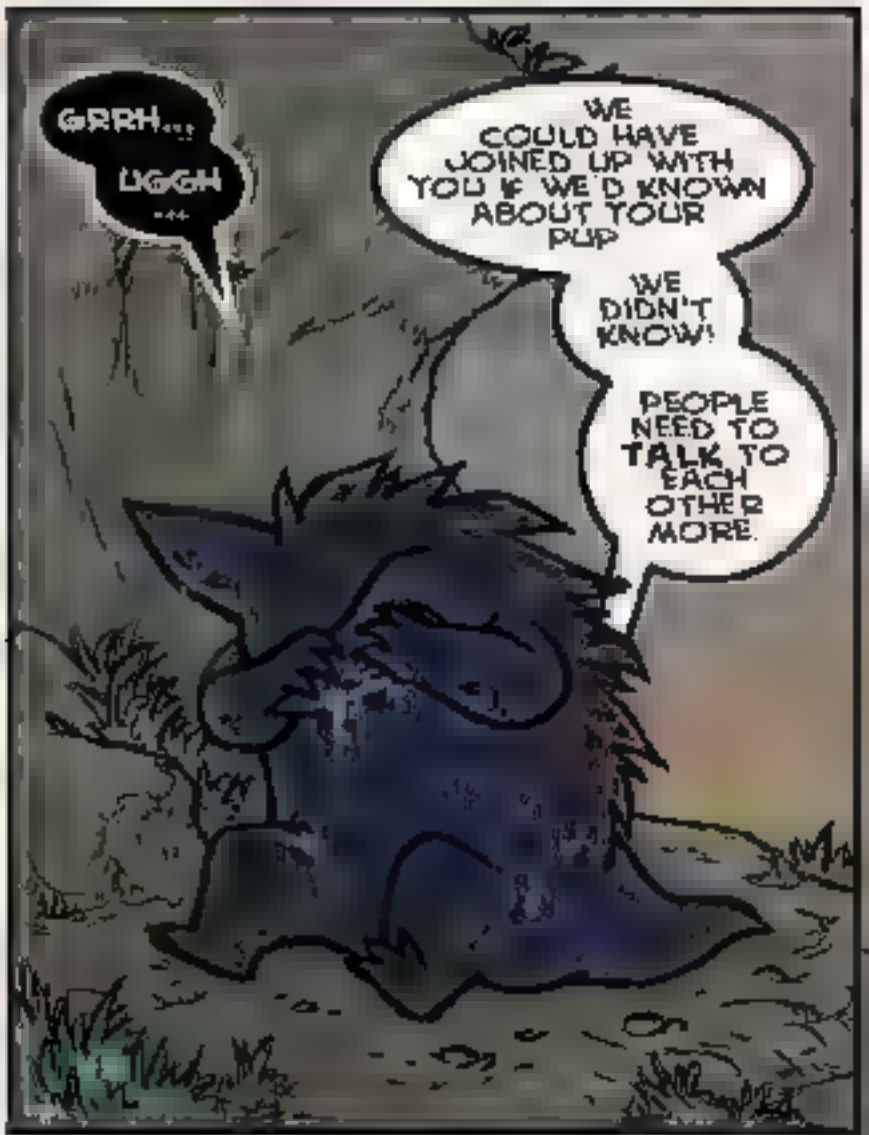

DON'T
NOBODY IS GOING ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW
LEAST OF ALL YOU


—ALL RIGHT, HERE, I GOT IT.
MAREEP FLUFF.
YOU CAN GO GET IT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT ANY MORE. IT'S ALL OVER THE ROCKS DOWN THERE.

AND YOU GUYS OWE ME AT LEAST FIVE BOWLS OF SHAVED ICE FOR THIS.

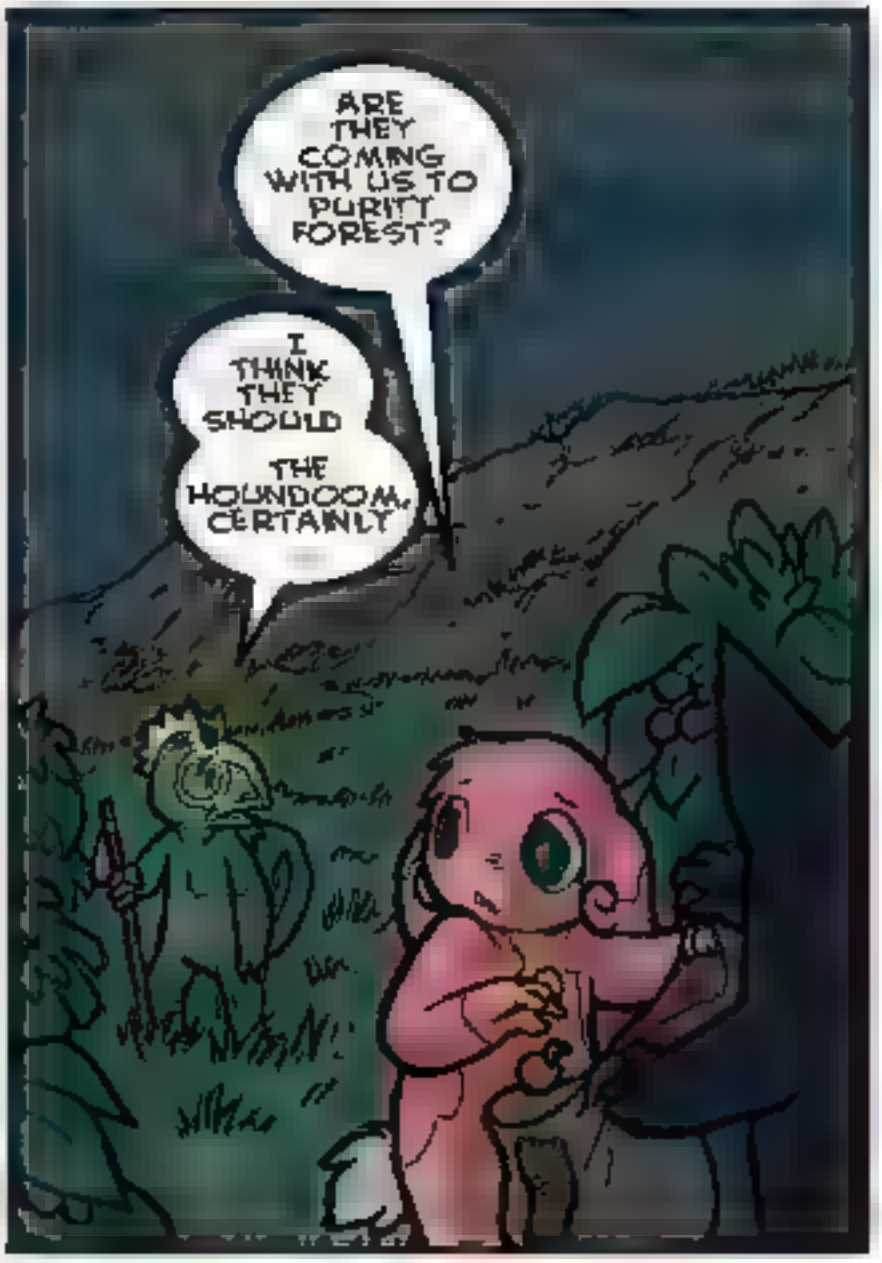

SORRY, YOU MIGHT LOOK A BIT LIKE A FURFROU BEFORE I'M DONE.
WHAT IS THIS FOR?
PADDING SHRED SOME MORE FOR ME, JEN


I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVEN WALKED THIS FAR
YOUR FEET ARE RUBBED RAW


GRRH...
UGGH
...
WE COULD HAVE JOINED UP WITH YOU IF WE'D KNOWN ABOUT YOUR PUP
WE DIDN'T KNOW!
PEOPLE NEED TO TALK TO EACH OTHER MORE.

WHUH?!

...
"PEOPLE NEED TO TALK TO EACH OTHER..."
TALK TO EACH OTHER
...


ARE THEY COMING WITH US TO PURITY FOREST?
I THINK THEY SHOULD
THE HOUNDOOM, CERTAINLY

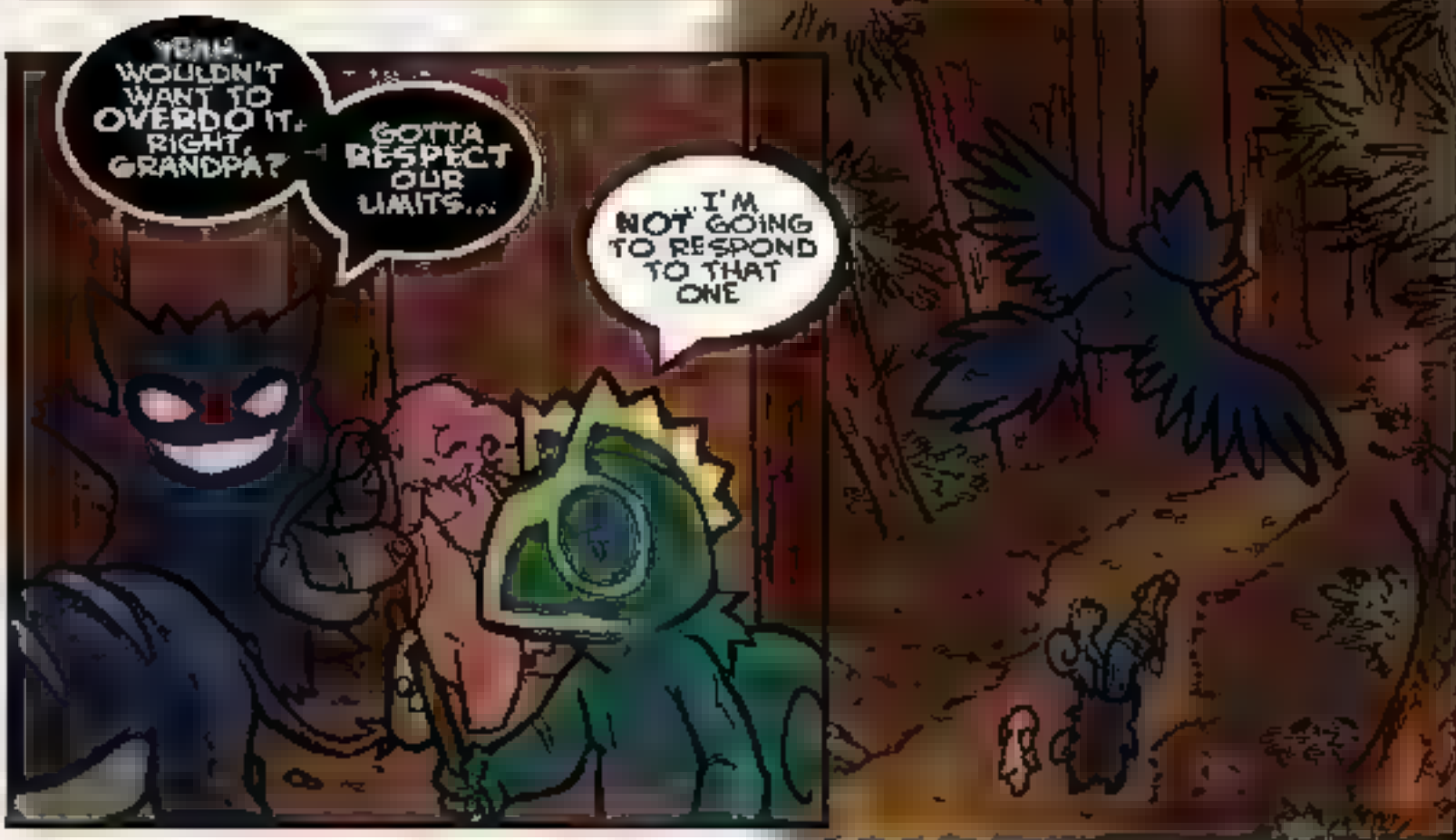
YOU KNOW HE'S THE ONE THAT BIT ME?
I HAVEN'T FOR-GOTTEN

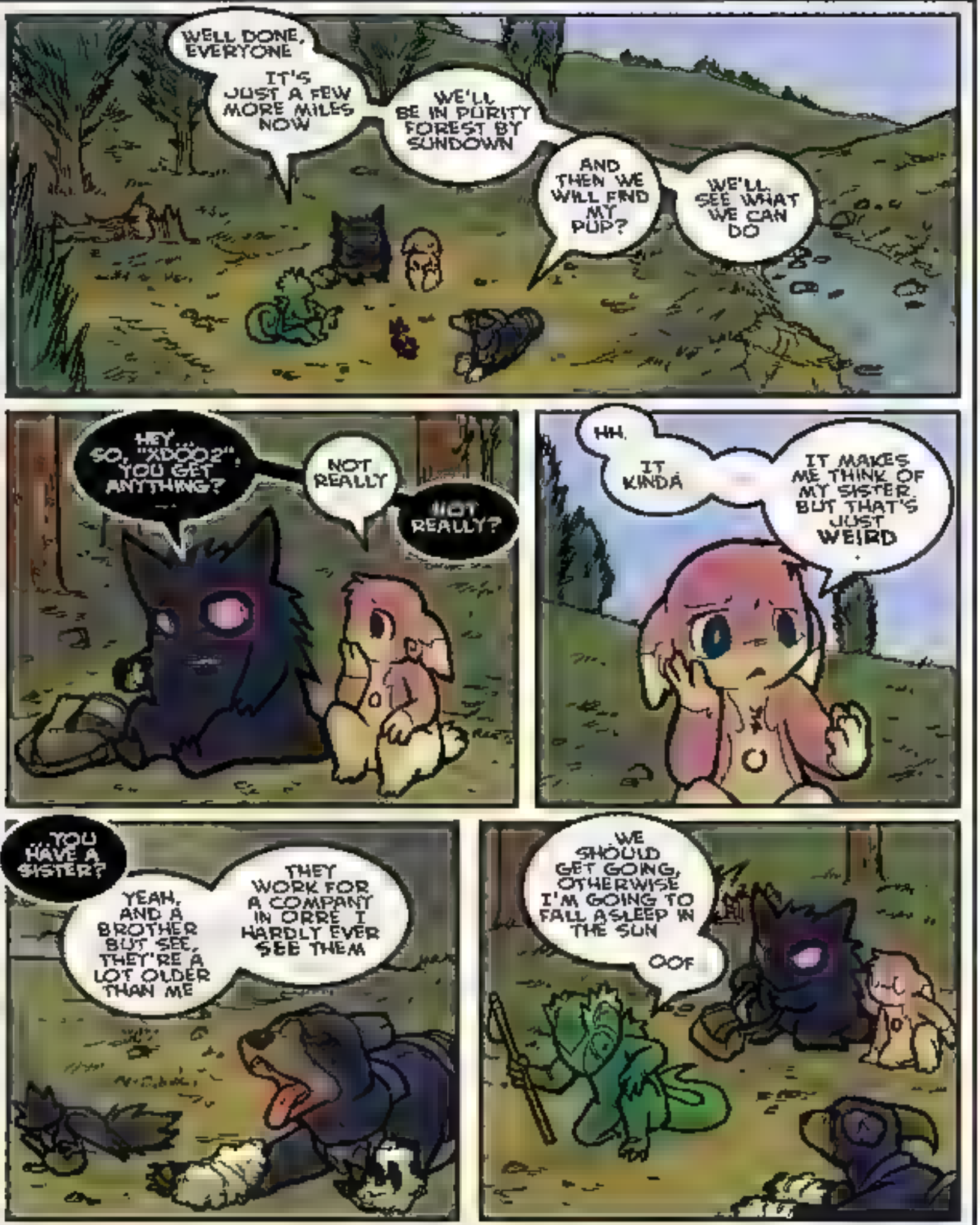
HE'S A VICTIM TOO.
AND HE'S BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DARKRAI
HE MAY KNOW USEFUL THINGS.

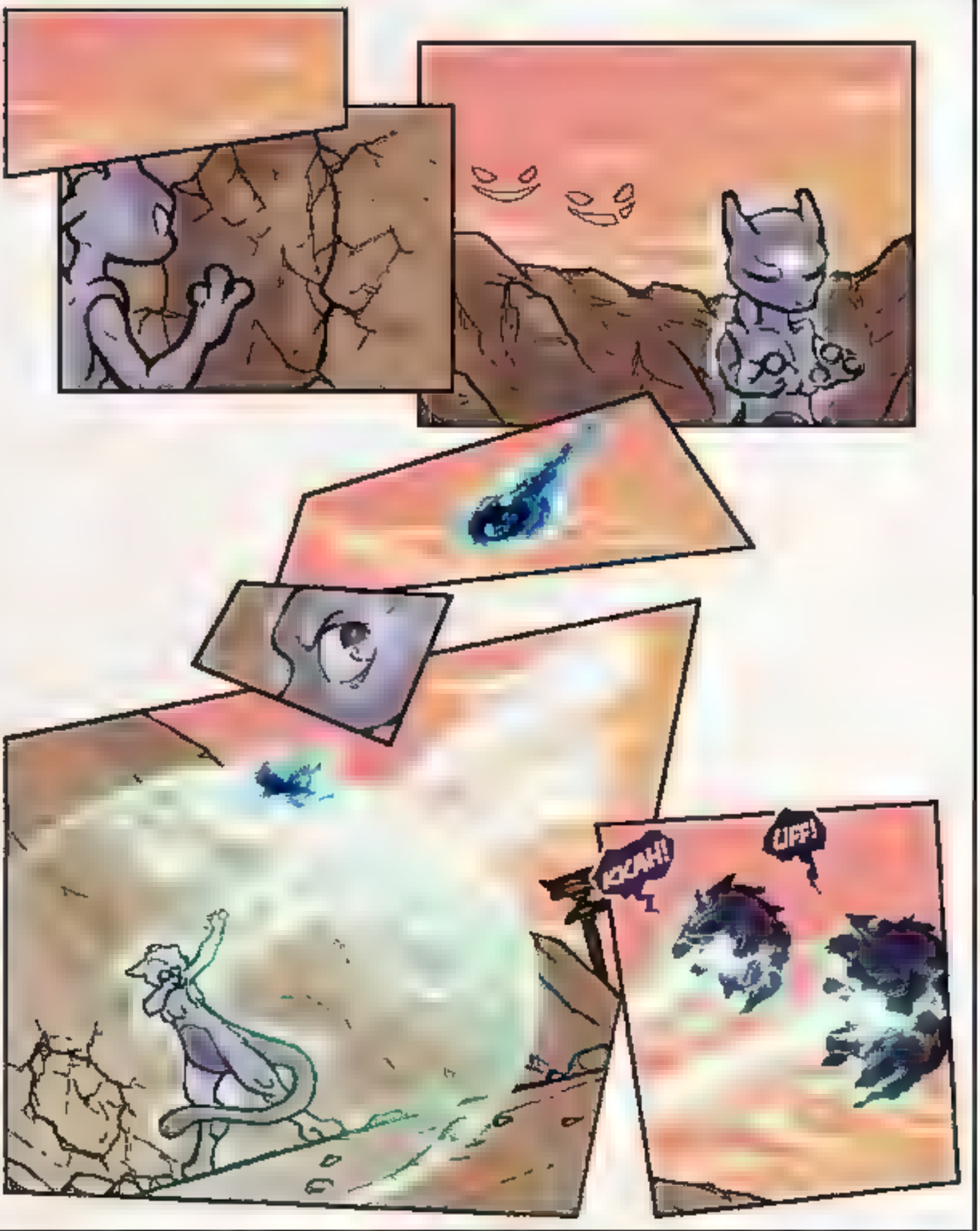
PLUS, IF HE COMES WITH US, WE'LL KNOW WHERE HE IS

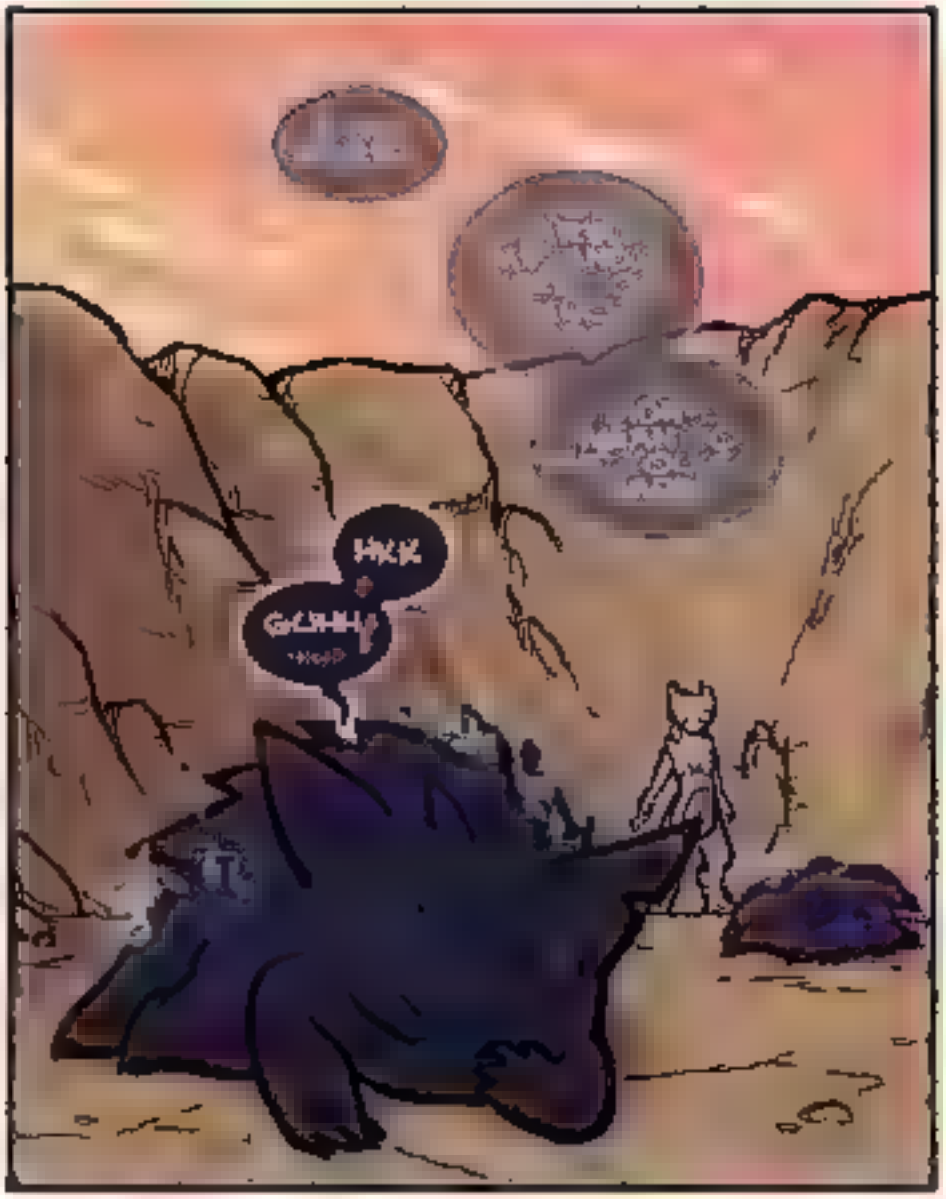
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT KECLEON.
AND I WAS RIGHT!
IN ANY CASE, HE ISN'T MUCH THREAT IN HIS CURRENT STATE

NOW YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE UP TO WALKING TODAY?
I WILL WALK
WELL, WE'D ALL BETTER TAKE IT SLOW, JUST IN CASE


YEAH, WOULDN'T WANT TO OVERDO IT, RIGHT, GRANDPA?
GOTTA RESPECT OUR LIMITS...
I'M NOT GOING TO RESPOND TO THAT ONE

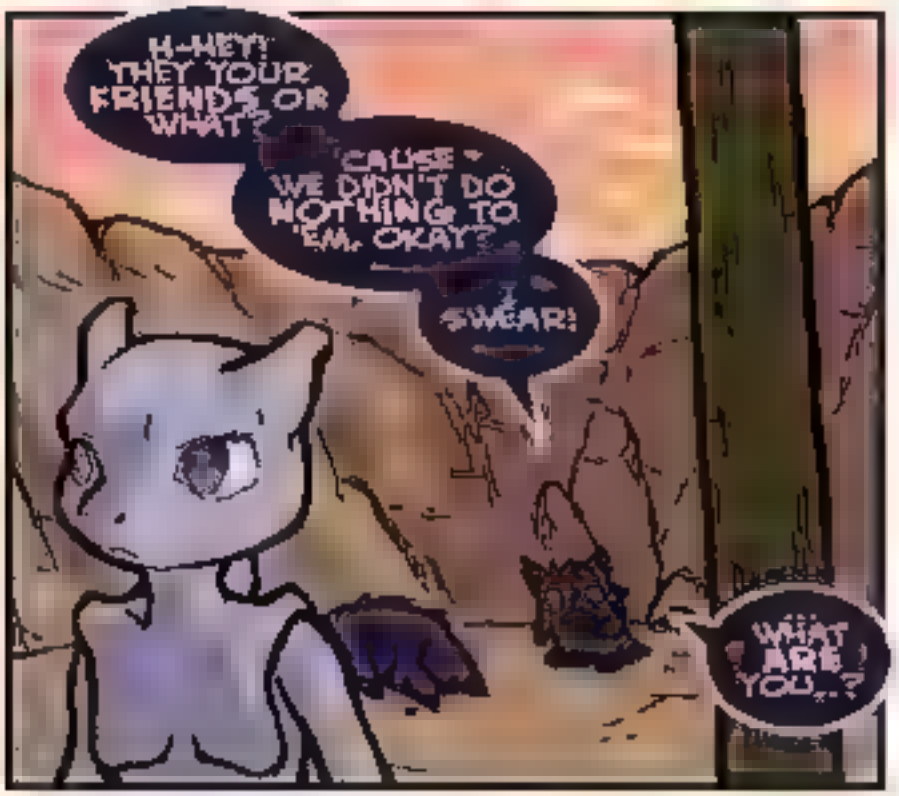

WELL DONE, EVERYONE
IT'S JUST A FEW MORE MILES NOW
WE'LL BE IN PURITY FOREST BY SUNDOWN
AND THEN WE WILL FIND MY PUP?
WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO
HEY... SO, "XDOO2", YOU GET ANYTHING?
NOT REALLY
NOT REALLY?
HH.
IT KINDA
IT MAKES ME THINK OF MY SISTER. BUT THAT'S JUST WEIRD
YOU HAVE A SISTER?
YEAH, AND A BROTHER BUT SEE, THEY'RE A LOT OLDER THAN ME
THEY WORK FOR A COMPANY IN ORRE I HARDLY EVER SEE THEM
WE SHOULD GET GOING, OTHERWISE I'M GOING TO FALL ASLEEP IN THE SUN
OOF


KRAH!
UFF!

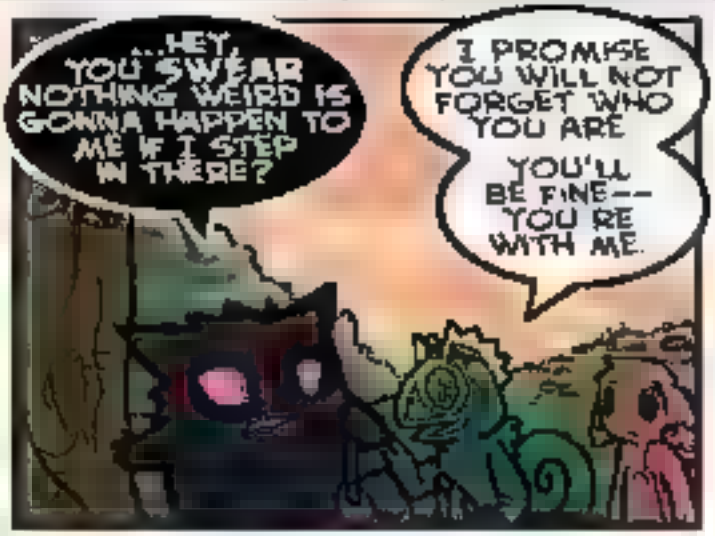

HKK
GLRHH!

HHUH
WHUH?

I—
I DUNNO, MAN! I DIDN'T SEE—
THE LITWICKS LED 'EM OFF—MAYBE THE PONY KNOWS?
I DUNNO!

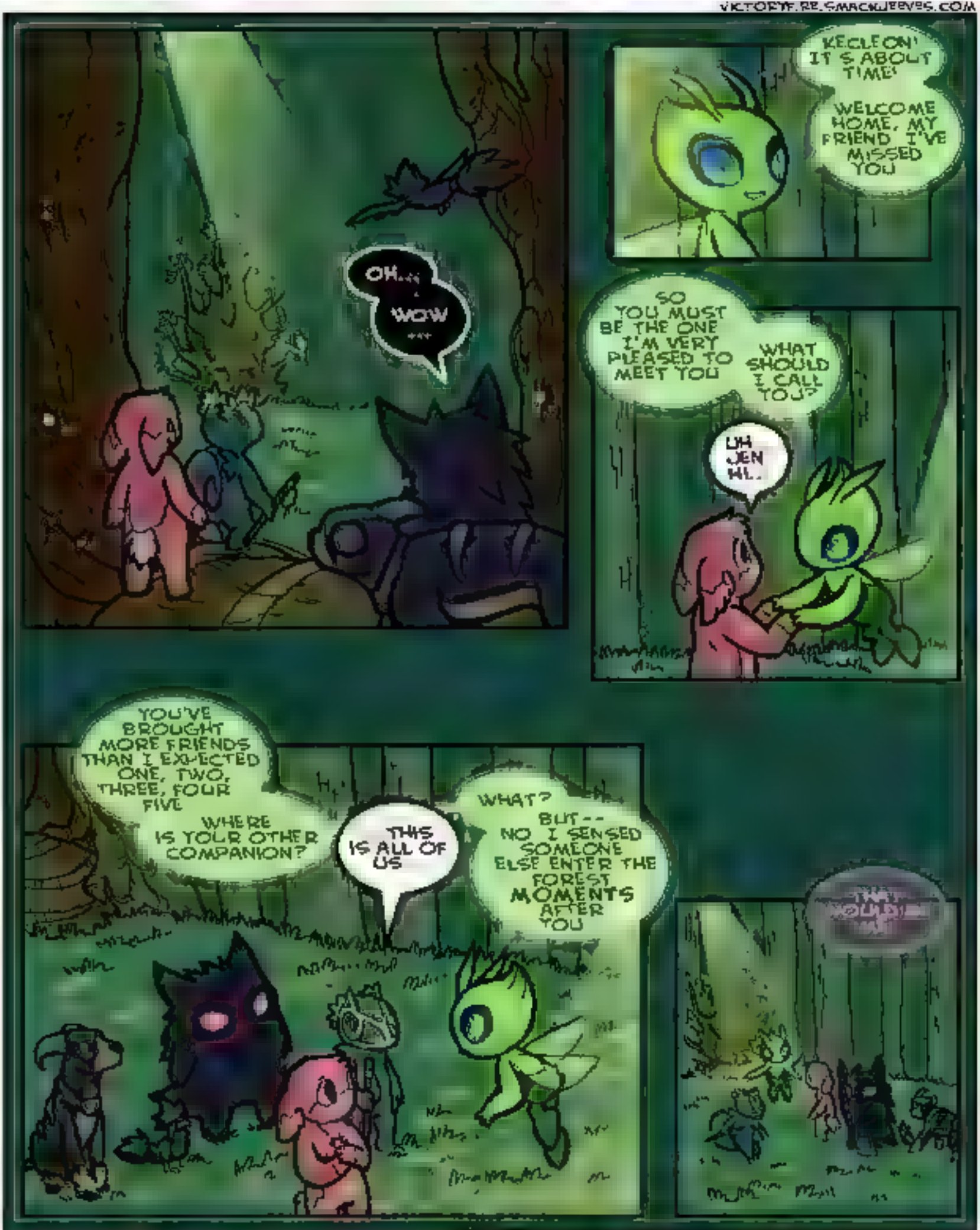

H-HEY! THEY YOUR FRIENDS OR WHAT?
'CAUSE WE DIDN'T DO NOTHING TO 'EM, OKAY?
I SWEAR!
WHAT ARE YOU...?

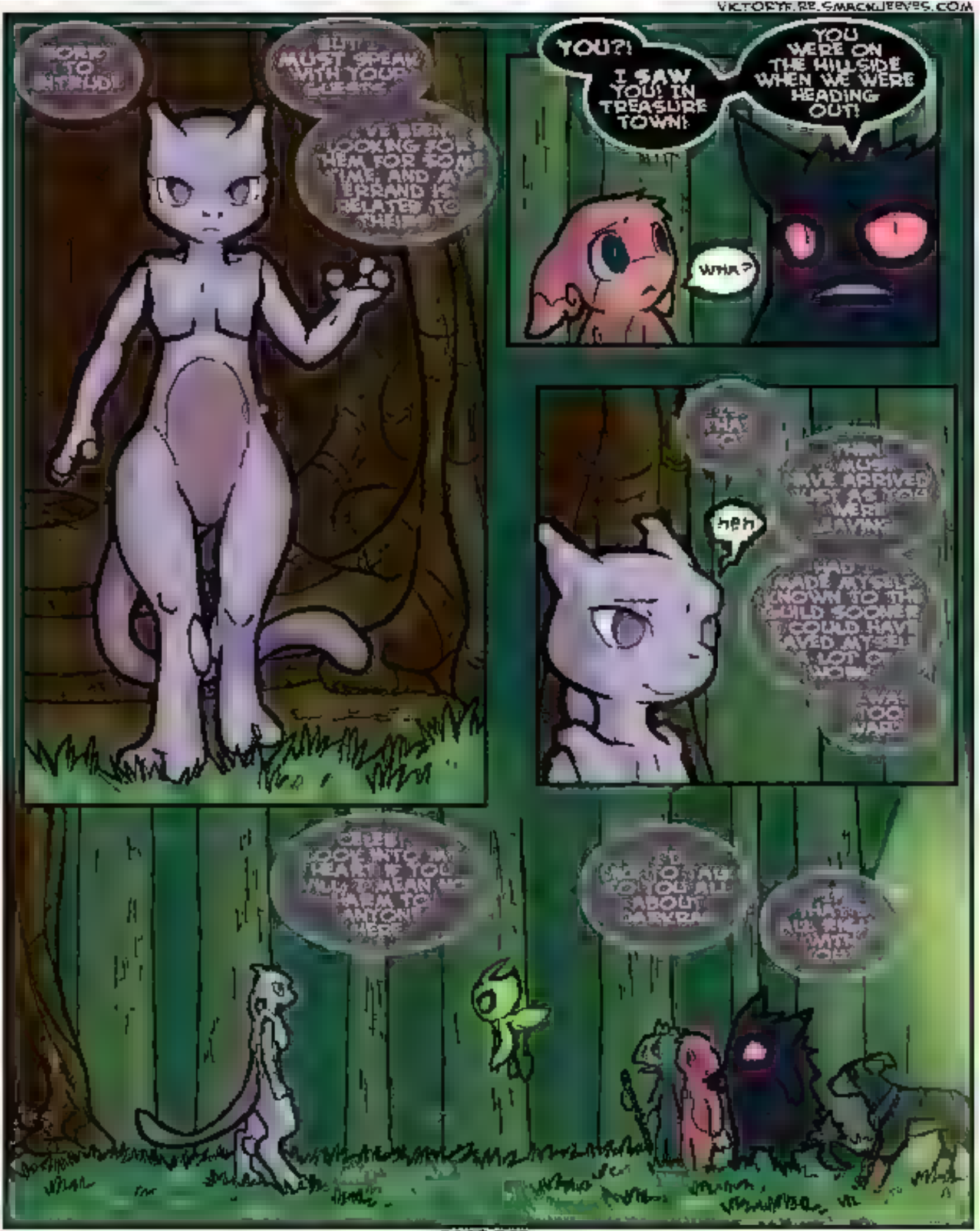
WHOA!
HOW OLD ARE THESE TREES?
"HOW OLD"?
HEH
THIS IS CELEBI'S DOMAIN, JEN
QUESTIONS LIKE THAT DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MEANING HERE


...HEY, YOU SWEAR NOTHING WEIRD IS GONNA HAPPEN TO ME IF I STEP IN THERE?
I PROMISE YOU WILL NOT FORGET WHO YOU ARE
YOU'LL BE FINE-- YOU RE WITH ME.

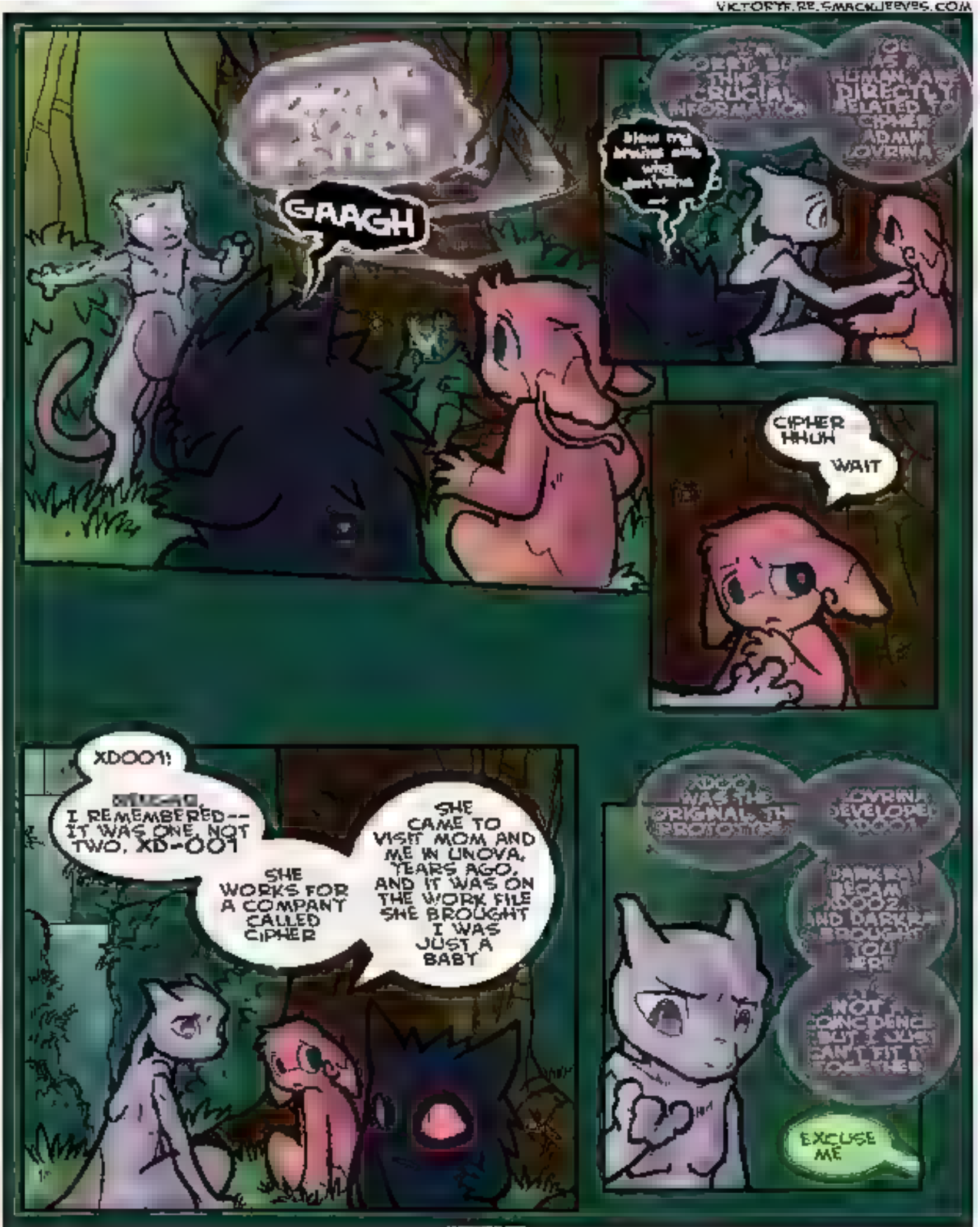
NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO ME YET, GENGAR
THOUGH THIS PLACE SMELLS STRANGE

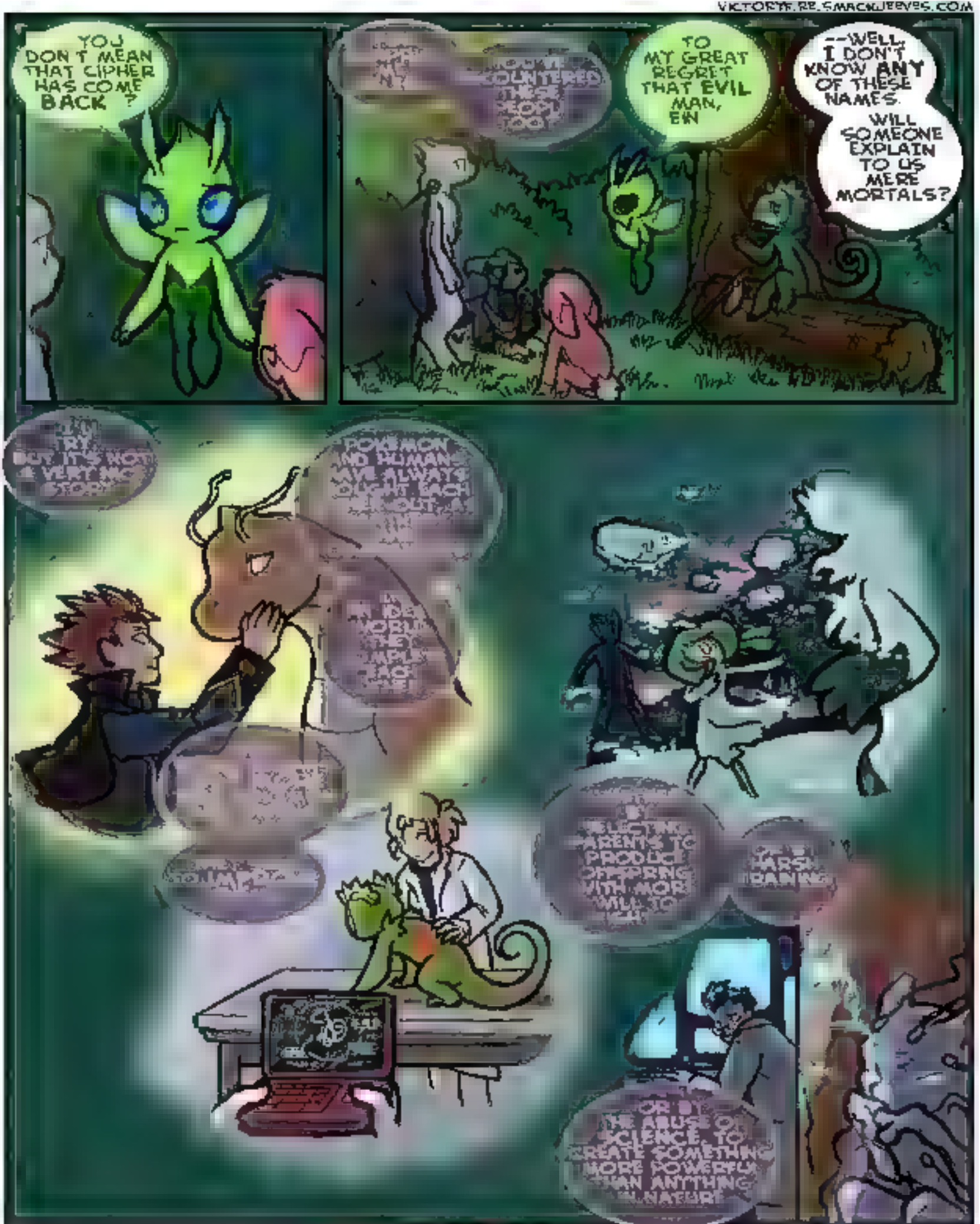
WHUFF

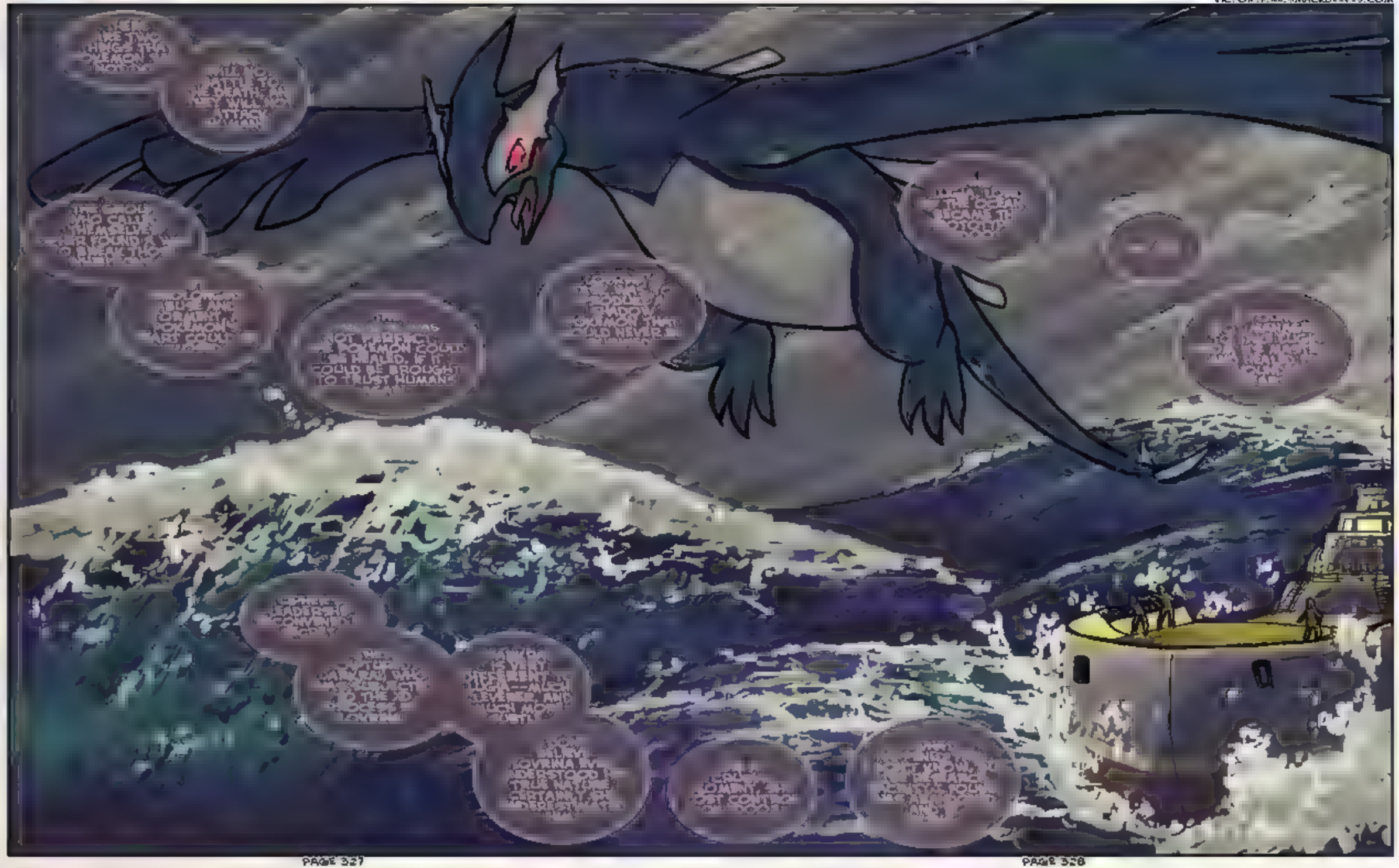

OH...
WOW
KECLEON! IT'S ABOUT TIME!
WELCOME HOME, MY FRIEND I'VE MISSED YOU
SO YOU MUST BE THE ONE I'M VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU
WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
UH JEN NI.
YOU'VE BROUGHT MORE FRIENDS THAN I EXPECTED ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR FIVE
WHERE IS YOUR OTHER COMPANION?
THIS IS ALL OF US
WHAT?
BUT-- NO I SENSED SOMEONE ELSE ENTER THE FOREST MOMENTS AFTER YOU


SORRY TO INTERRUPT!
BUT I MUST SPEAK WITH YOUR LEADER!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THEM FOR SOME TIME AND MY ERRAND IS RELATED TO THEIR
YOU?!
I SAW YOU! IN TREASURE TOWN!
YOU WERE ON THE HILLSIDE WHEN WE WERE HEADING OUT!
WHA?
HUH?
MUST HAVE ARRIVED JUST AS WE WERE LEAVING
HAD I MADE MYSELF KNOWN TO THE GUILD SOONER I COULD HAVE SAVED MYSELF A LOT OF WORRY
AND TOO VAIN
OTHER LOOK INTO MY HEART IF YOU WILL? I MEAN NO HARM TO ANYONE HERE
SO I'M TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MARKUS
I HAD A RUN-IN WITH HIM

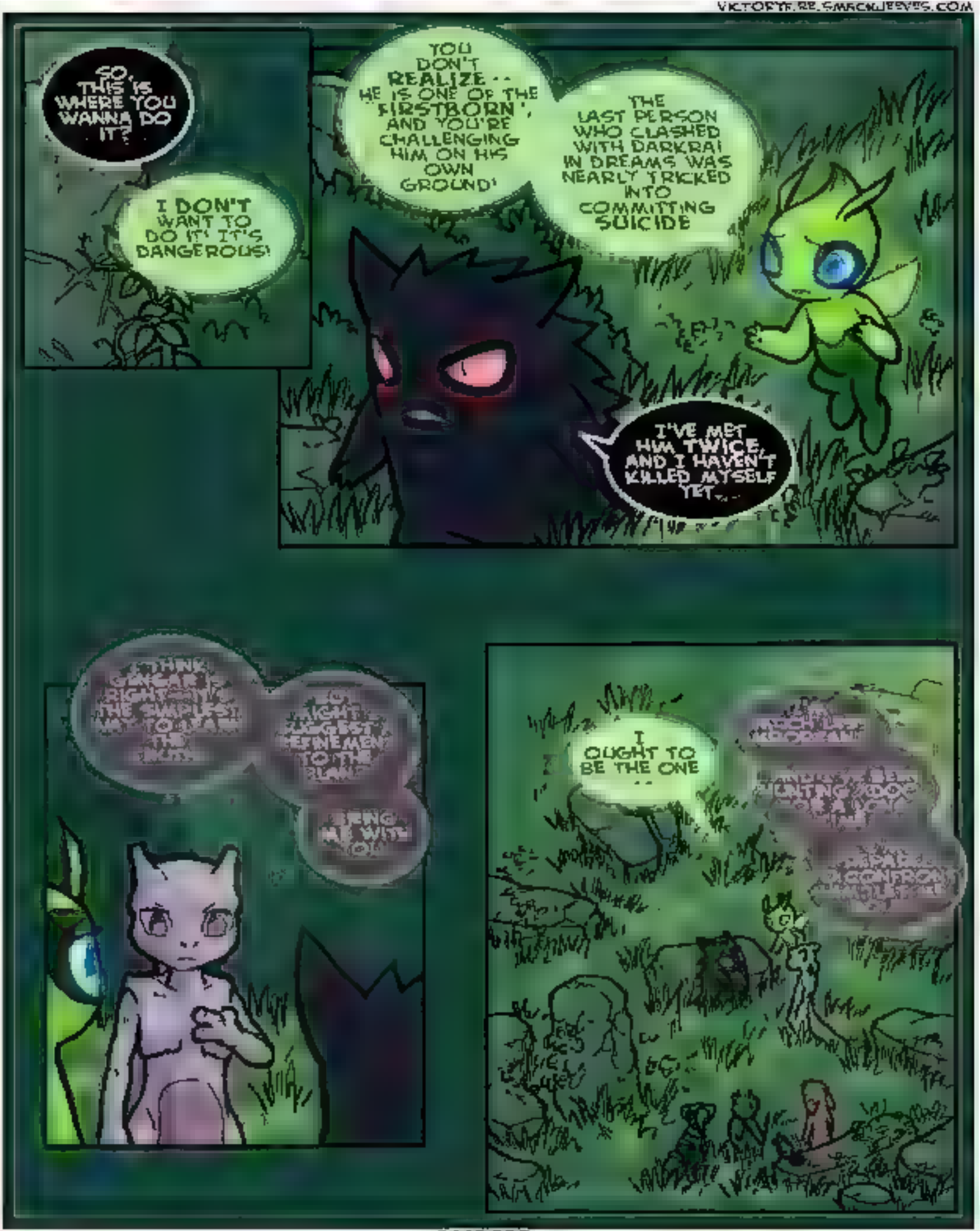
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU AND LUCARIO HAD TROUBLE FROM DARKRAI IN THE
BUT EVENT MAY NOT HAVE ENTIRELY BEEN HIS FAULT
I BELIEVE THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE UNWILLING VICTIM OF SOME VERY UNPLEASANT EXPERIMENTS
WAIT— IS THIS ABOUT THE "XDOO2" THING?
WHERE DID YOU HEAR OF THAT?
I'VE SEEN IT IN DREAMS, TWICE NOW. IT'S ON HIS ARM
WHAT SADLY CONFIRMS IT. XDOO2 WOULD
I'LL GRAB ANOTHER BERRY, I HAD A BIG
OF COURSE
HEY... WHAT'S UP?
UH, MEWTWO, SIR
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING TO DO WITH LOVRINA, IS IT?
OH, YOU'VE HEARD OF LOVRINA TOO?
UH, WELL, YEAH
SHE'S MY SISTER

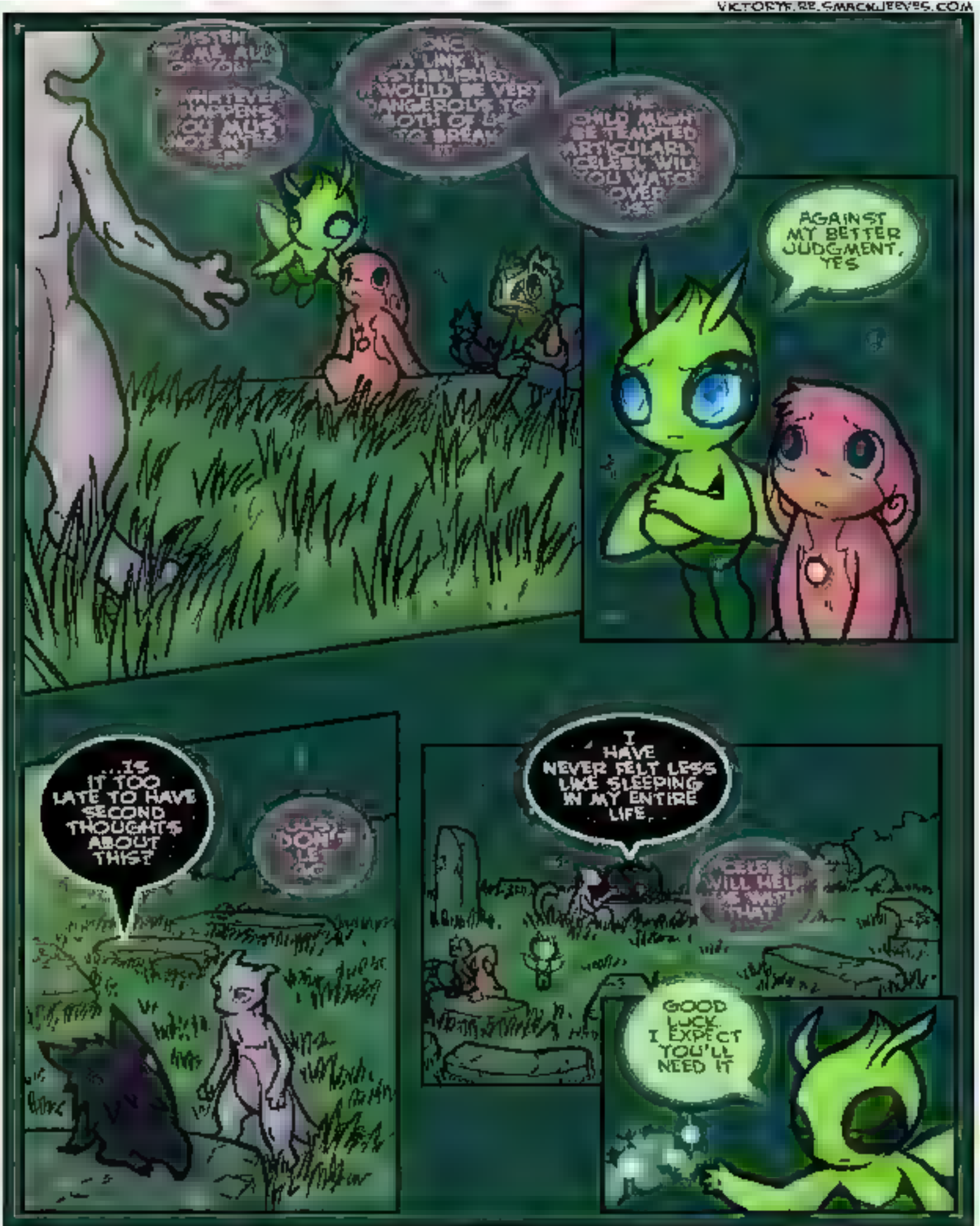

GAAGH
THIS IS CRUCIAL INFORMATION
OR AS A HUMAN ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO CIPHER ADMIN LOVRINA
CIPHER HHUH
WAIT
XD001!
I REMEMBERED-- IT WAS ONE, NOT TWO. XD-001
SHE WORKS FOR A COMPANY CALLED CIPHER
SHE CAME TO VISIT MOM AND ME IN UNOVA, YEARS AGO, AND IT WAS ON THE WORK FILE SHE BROUGHT I WAS JUST A BABY
EXCUSE ME


YOU DON'T MEAN THAT CIPHER HAS COME BACK?
TO MY GREAT REGRET THAT EVIL MAN, EIN
--WELL, I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THESE NAMES. WILL SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO US MERE MORTALS?
I'LL TRY, BUT IT'S NOT A VERY LONG STORY
POKEMON AND HUMANS HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT EACH OTHER


A POKÉMON COULD BE TRAINED, IF IT COULD BE BROUGHT TO TRUST HUMANS

I DIDN'T KNOW
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS DOING ALL THAT AWFUL STUFF
IS DARKRAI GONNA HATE ME FOREVER NOW?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRY TO STOP HER?
WE DON'T KNOW THAT'S THE CASE
IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE SURE WHAT XDOOM INTENDS
...
HEY, WELL... CRAZY IDEA...
WHY DON'T WE JUST ASK HIM?
I MEAN I EXACTLY CALL HIM YOU KNOW
I CAN.
WELL, I HAVEN'T TRIED, BUT...
LAST TIME HE SHOWED UP, HE LEFT ME A WAY...
THERE'S GOTTA BE A REASON FOR THAT... RIGHT? HE WANTS SOMETHING, I RECKON HE'D TALK TO ME
...
WHY'RE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?


SO, THIS IS WHERE YOU WANNA DO IT?
I DON'T WANT TO DO IT! IT'S DANGEROUS!
YOU DON'T REALIZE... HE IS ONE OF THE 'FIRSTBORN', AND YOU'RE CHALLENGING HIM ON HIS OWN GROUND!
THE LAST PERSON WHO CLASHED WITH DARKRAI IN DREAMS WAS NEARLY TRICKED INTO COMMITTING SUICIDE
I'VE MET HIM TWICE, AND I HAVEN'T KILLED MYSELF YET...
I OUGHT TO BE THE ONE...


LISTEN TO ME ALL OF YOU
WHATEVER HAPPENS YOU MUST NOT ENTER
ONCE A LINK IS ESTABLISHED IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS TO BOTH OF US TO BREAK IT
THE CHILD MIGHT BE TEMPTED PARTICULARLY CRUEL WILL YOU WATCH OVER HER
AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, YES
I HAVE NEVER FELT LESS LIKE SLEEPING IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.
GOOD LUCK. I EXPECT YOU'LL NEED IT
...IS IT TOO LATE TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS?

I'VE LOST SOMETHING.
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?
IS IT HERE?
OOG
OKAY. DREAMING AND YOU'RE HERE. I GOT IT.
HERE GOES THEN...
DARKRAI?

YES?
GHAH!
DON'T DO THAT!

"YOU" CALLED ME? I CAME...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME?
WHO IS WITH YOU?

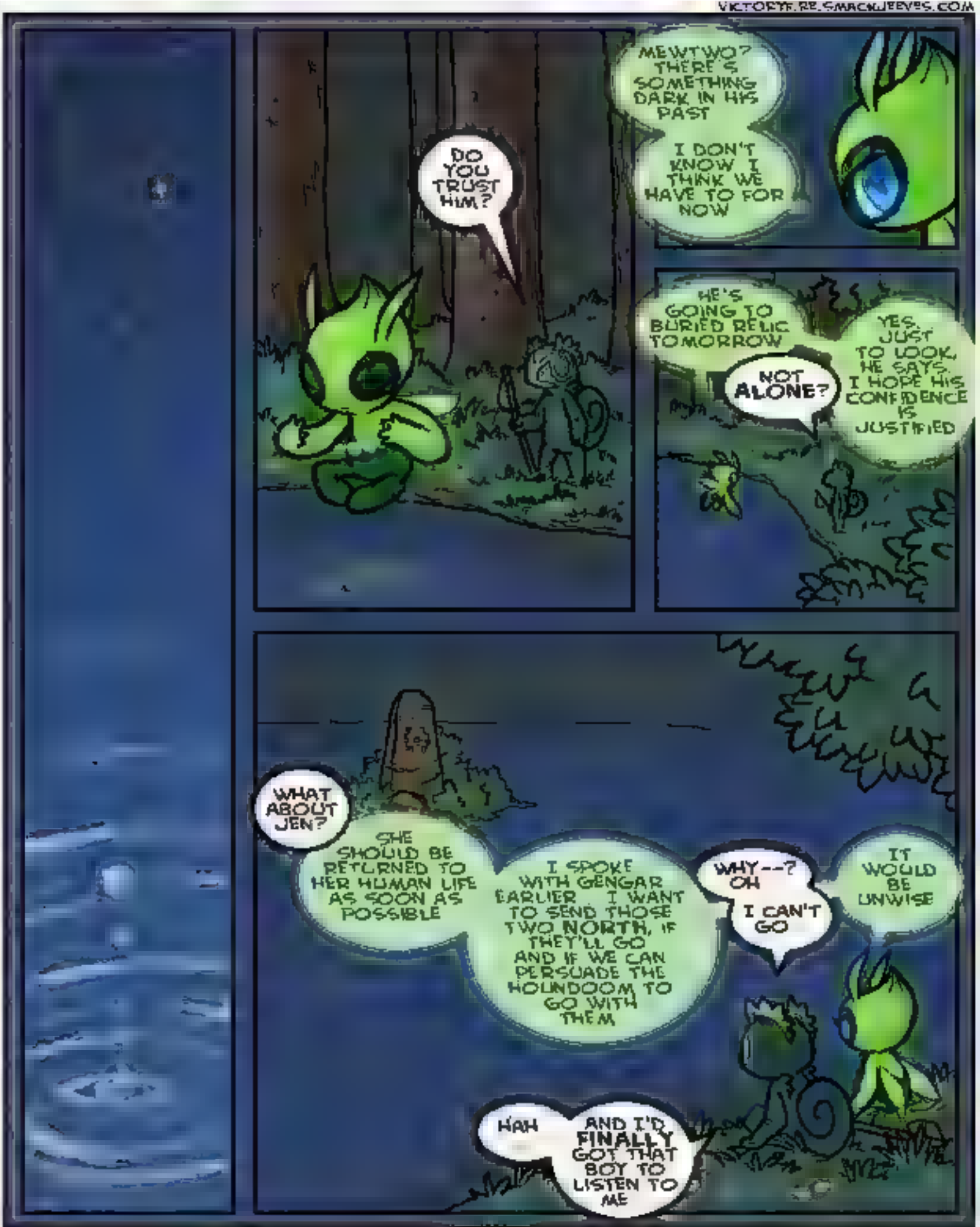
I TRUSTED YOU!
YOU LED ME INTO A TRAP?
WAIT-- WAIT A SEC--
LYING!
MY HEAD--
NO! I WON'T BE TRICKED AGAIN-- LET ME GO!
I-- YOU'RE ASKING TOO MUCH! I HAVEN'T GOT THE STRENGTH--

HHUH
HHUH
WELL PLAYED SUPER9 SEVEN
HH... WHAT HAPPENED ...W?
YOU'RE MAKING ME! YOU TURNED BACK ON HIM
THAT WAS QUITE REMARKABLE! I COULDN'T HAVE DONE
WE'RE IN HIS NIGHTMARE NOW!
NO
NO
NO

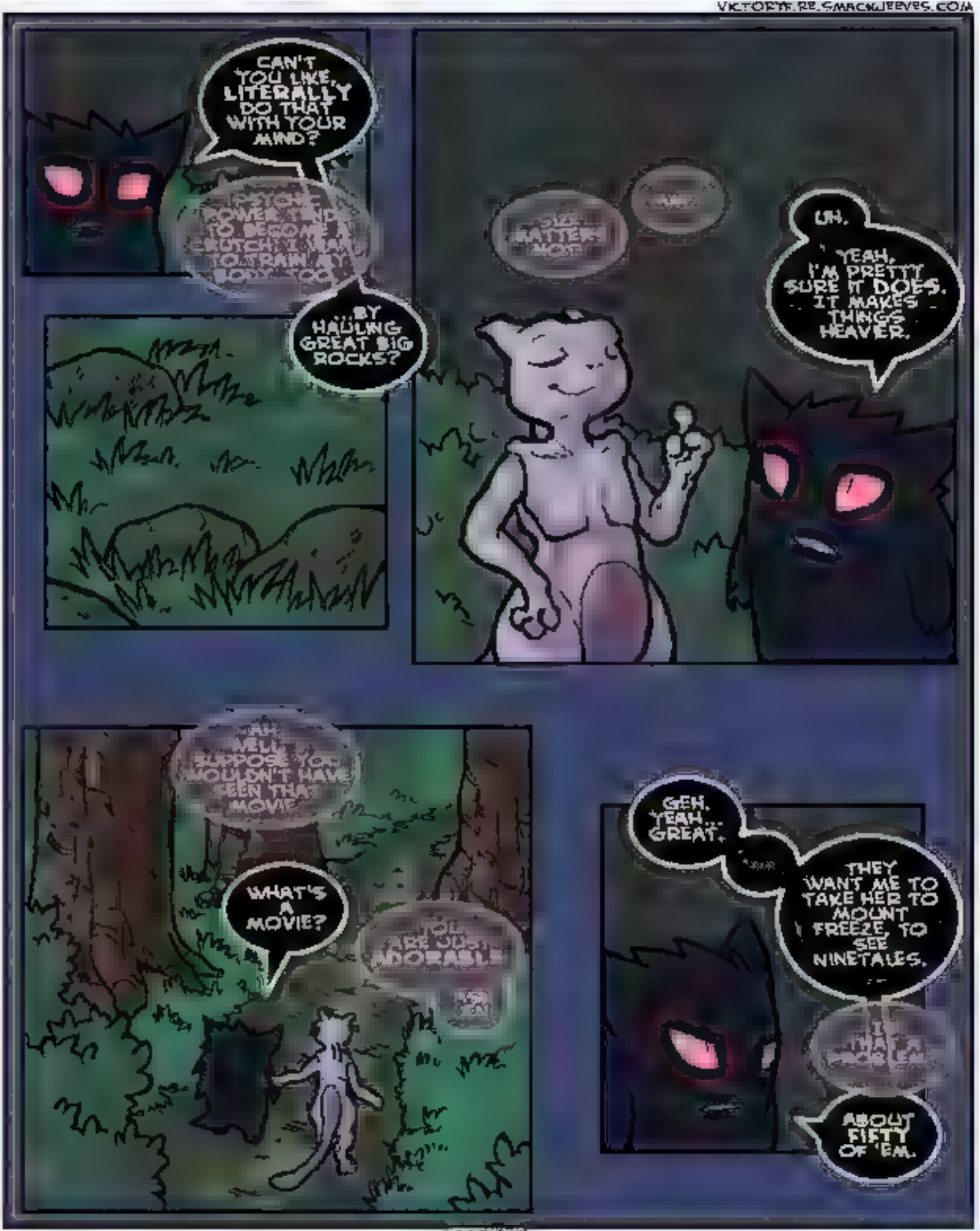
WE DIDN'T BREAK YOU OUT TO TORMENT YOU WITH THE MEMORIES
YOU KID FOR HELP. WON'T YOU GIVE US A CHANCE?
DARWIN
COME BACK AND TALK TO US
GHH-
MAN YOU
TIRED. I'M SO TIRED.
I HURT.
CAN'T HOLD IT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
YOU'RE FIGHTING IT. YOU'VE BEEN RESISTING IT FOR SOME TIME. EVEN
WHEN YOU'RE NOT ATTACKING THAT CHILD OF YOUR OWN WILL.
SHE'S NOT YOUR
WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT?
I IT'S NOT HER FAULT...
"HER"?

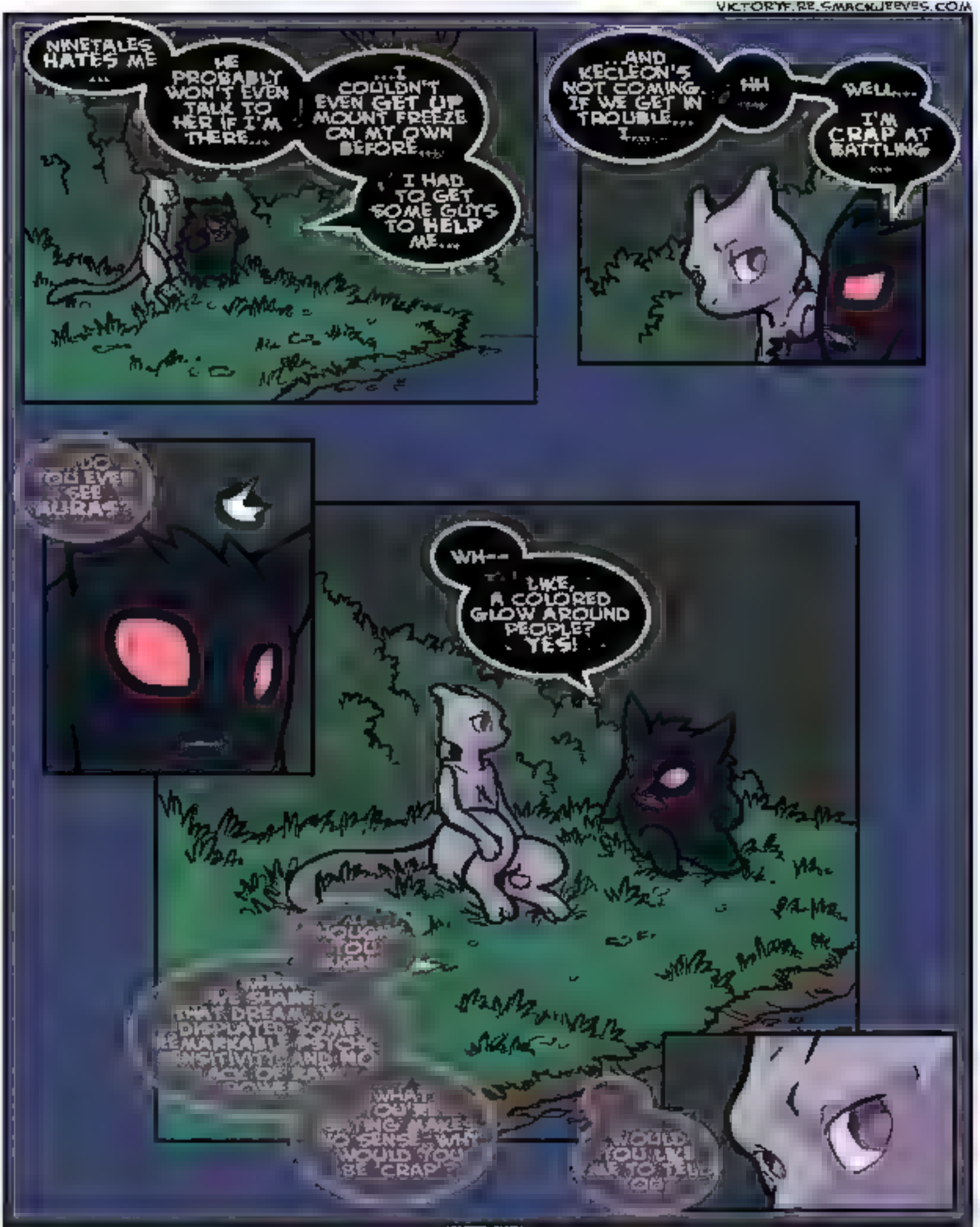
IT'S MY FAULT... I HELPED THEM TAKE HER...
I HELPED THEM DO IT TO HER...
SHE...
SHE THINKS IF SHE SHARES IT, MISS LOVRNA WILL TAKE US BACK...
GHH- HEARTED HUMAN CHILD ...NEED TO OPEN THE DOOR...
H-HEAD-- GONNA EXPLODE-- CAN'T--
NO HOLD ON!
WE'RE SO CLOSE!
NAME
SOMETHING

...BUT HE DIDN'T TELL US ANYTHING... NOTHING THAT MADE SENSE ANYWAY...
HE GAVE US SOMETHING WE DIDN'T HAVE BEFORE
ANYONE CAN TELL US WHO I AM
WHERE AND WHAT IS THE BURIED RELIC?


DO YOU TRUST HIM?
MEWTWO? THERE'S SOMETHING DARK IN HIS PAST
I DON'T KNOW I THINK WE HAVE TO FOR NOW
HE'S GOING TO BURIED RELIC TOMORROW
NOT ALONE?
YES, JUST TO LOOK, HE SAYS. I HOPE HIS CONFIDENCE IS JUSTIFIED
WHAT ABOUT JEN?
SHE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO HER HUMAN LIFE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
I SPOKE WITH GENGAR EARLIER I WANT TO SEND THOSE TWO NORTH, IF THEY'LL GO AND IF WE CAN PERSUADE THE HOUNDOOM TO GO WITH THEM
WHY--? OH I CAN'T GO
IT WOULD BE UNWISE
HAH
AND I'D FINALLY GOT THAT BOY TO LISTEN TO ME

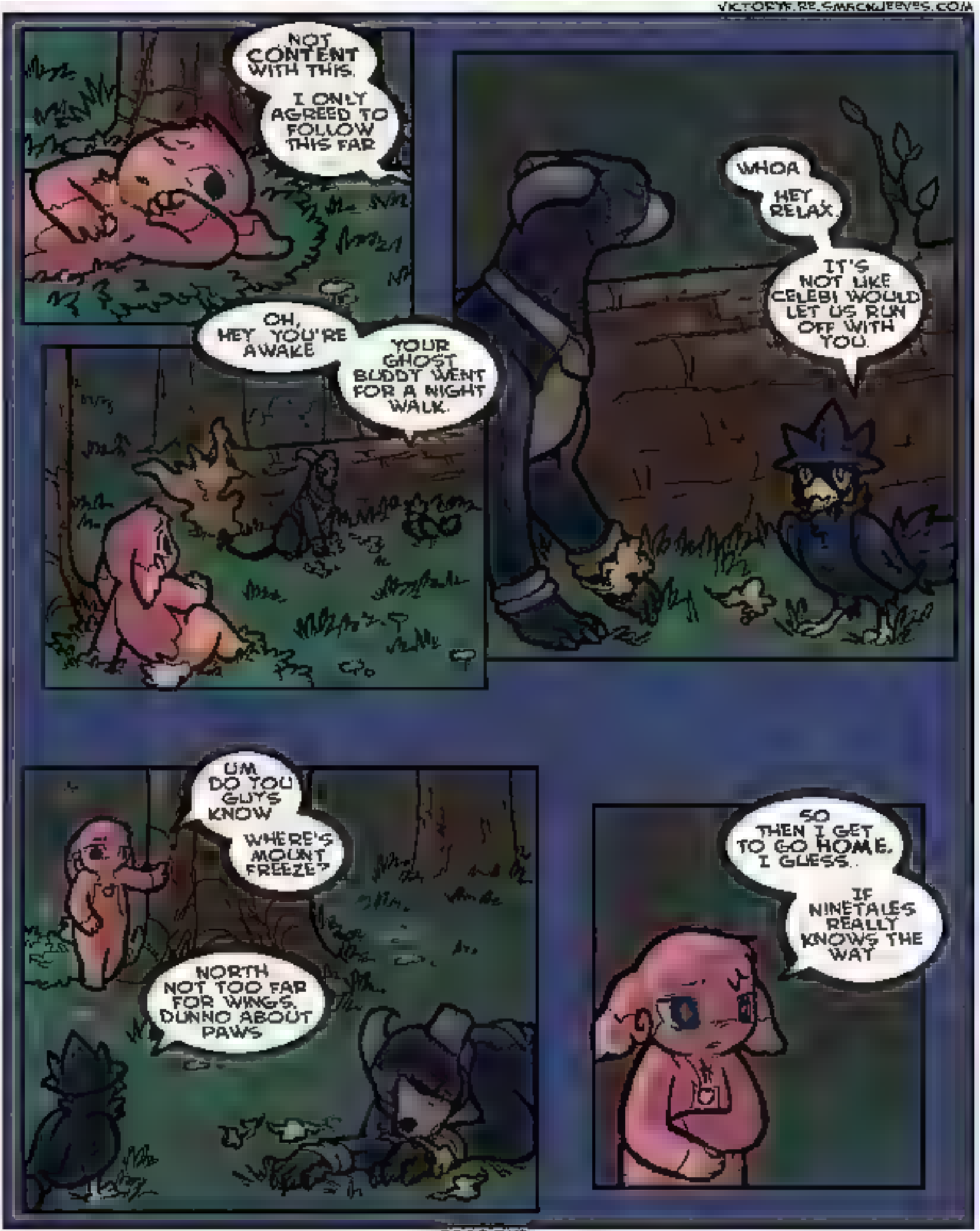
HH
WHUH!?
—THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?


CAN'T YOU LIKE, LITERALLY DO THAT WITH YOUR MIND?
BY HAULING GREAT BIG ROCKS?
SIZE MATTERS MOST
UH. YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE IT DOES. IT MAKES THINGS HEAVIER.
AH WELL I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN THAT MOVIE
WHAT'S A MOVIE?
OH ARE YOU MORALS
GEH. YEAH... GREAT.
THEY WANT ME TO TAKE HER TO MOUNT FREEZE, TO SEE NINETALES.
ABOUT FIFTY OF 'EM.

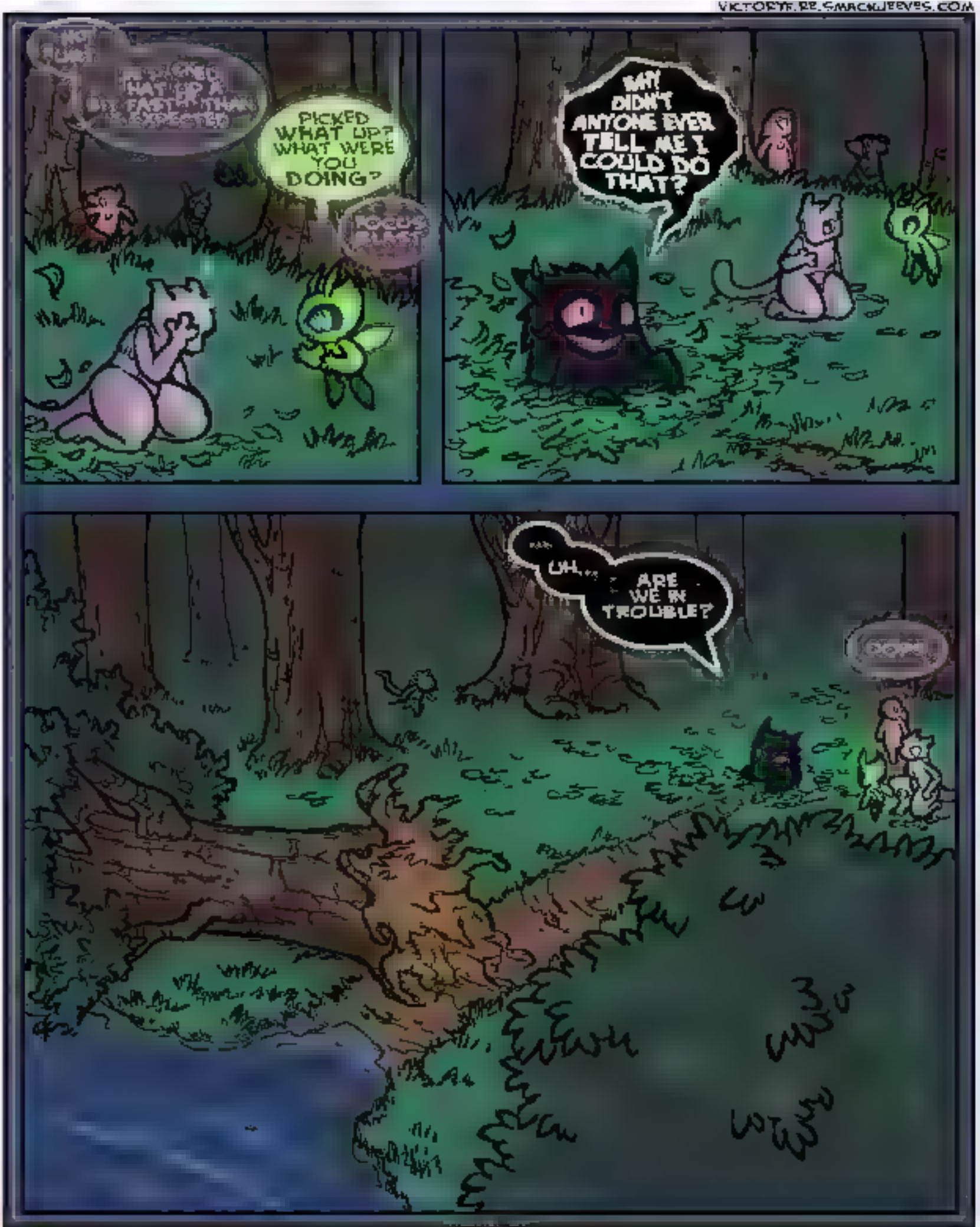

NINETALES HATES ME...
HE PROBABLY WON'T EVEN TALK TO HER IF I'M THERE...
...I COULDN'T EVEN GET UP MOUNT FREEZE ON MY OWN BEFORE...
I HAD TO GET SOME GUTS TO HELP ME...
...AND KECLEON'S NOT COMING. IF WE GET IN TROUBLE... I...
HH...
WELL... I'M CRAP AT BATTLING...
DO YOU EVER SEE AURAS?
WH--
LIKE, A COLORED GLOW AROUND PEOPLE? YES!
WHAT DREAMS DISPLAYED SOME REMARKABLE PSYCHIC INSTINCTS AND NO
WHAT? OUT OF NOWHERE? TO SENSE WHY WOULD YOU BE CRAP?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME

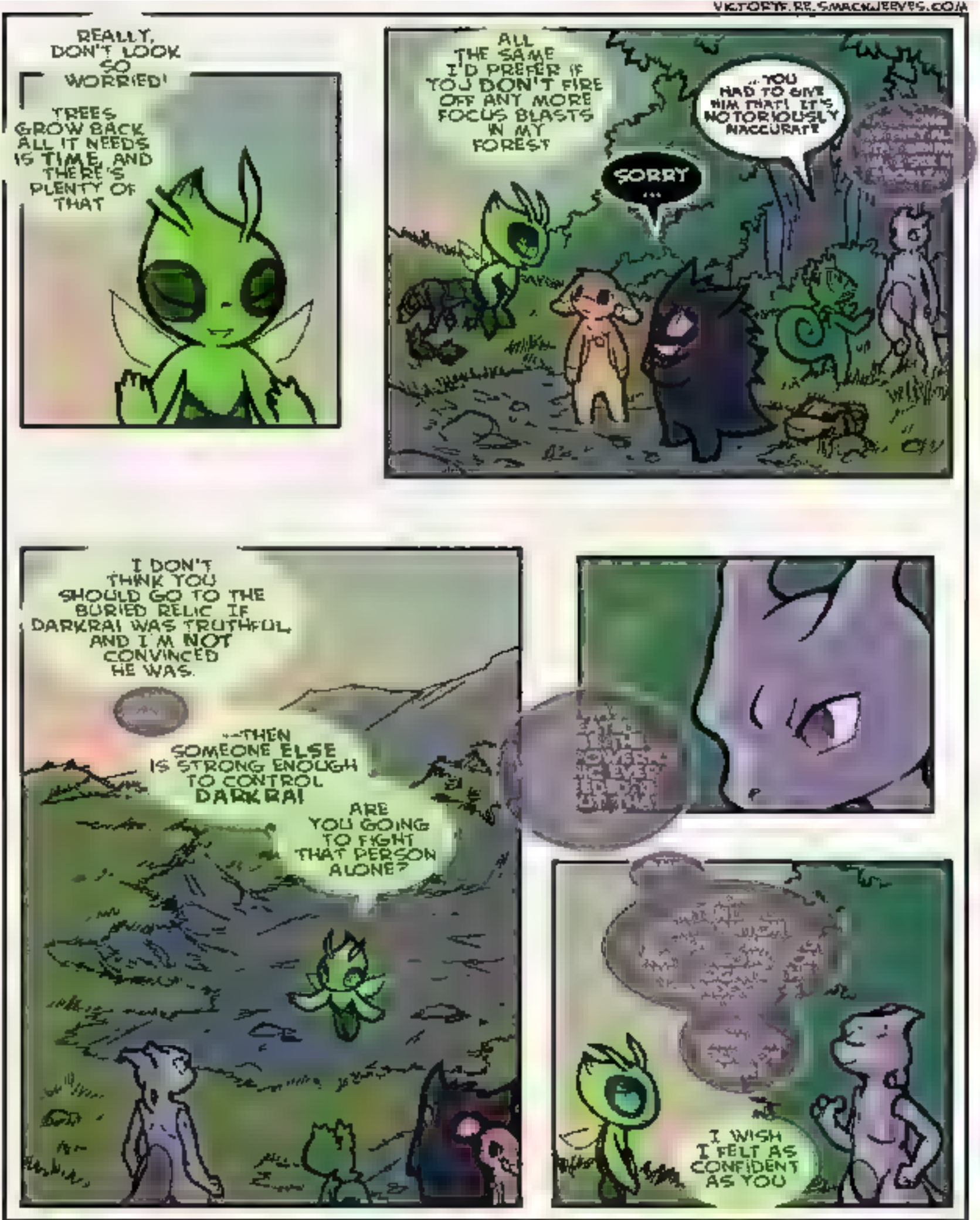
I DIDN'T GET OUT
BUT
OUR MINDS WERE LINKED BACK
BEING WHAT I AM, I COULDN'T HELP BUT PICK UP SOMETHING OF YOUR HISTORY
DON'T BE ASHAMED
YOU KNEW
WELL IT'S JUST... I'M THE LAST ONE WHO SHOULD JUDGE PEOPLE ON THEIR PAST
YOUR MEMORIES HAVE BECOME UNREVEALED LATELY FOR THAT
Y-YEAH
AND I DECIDED TO TRAIN
I EXPECT HE MEANT WELL, BUT HE'S ONLY REALLY HURT YOUR CONFIDENCE AND MADE THINGS WORSE
ARE YOU READING MY MIND?
HHAHA
I'M TRYING NOT TO
WELL I'LL BE FOR THE BEST THING I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S WRONG
AND THEN I CAN HELP

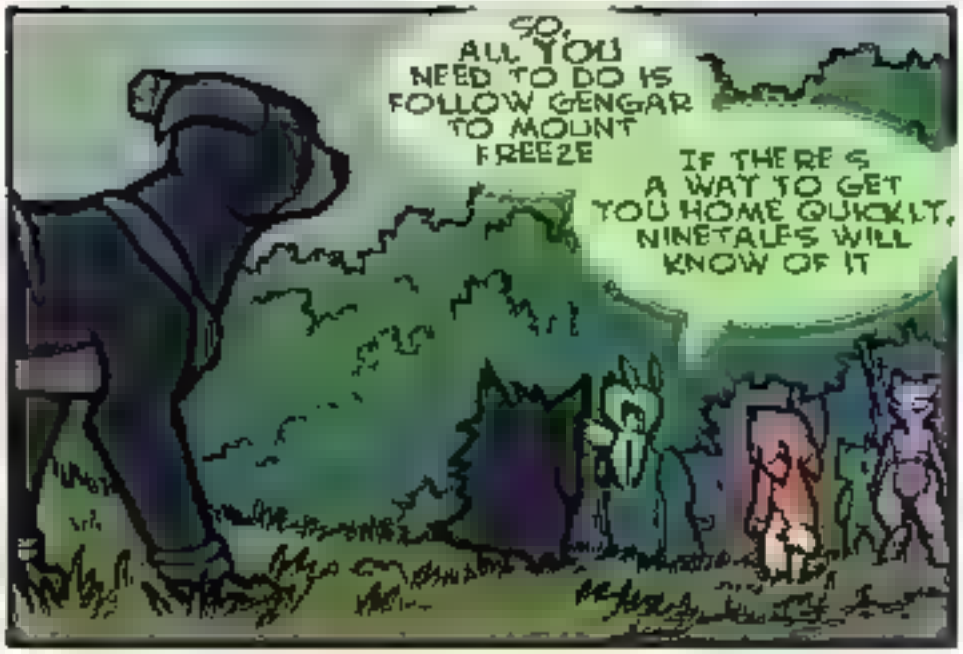
THE GHOST TYPE'S UNIQUE TRICKERY AND MISDIRECTION
WE CALL YOUR [illegible] WON'T LIKE
[illegible] PERSON [illegible] TO [illegible] AND [illegible] YOU
HA [illegible]
UNLESS YOU ACCEPT AND EMBRACE WHAT YOU ARE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BATTLE AS A GENGAR SHOULD
THAT'S ALL I GET? I JUST GOTTA GIVE UP HOPE?
NO NECESSARY I KNOW TECHNIQUE THAT MIGHT BE MORE TO YOUR ASS!!
YOU'LL LET ME TOUCH YOUR MIND ONCE MORE, I'LL SHOW YOU!!
...IS THIS GONNA HURT?
NO! IT'S GONNA KILL!
OKAY... GUESS I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE...


NOT CONTENT WITH THIS.
I ONLY AGREED TO FOLLOW THIS FAR
OH, HEY YOU'RE AWAKE
YOUR GHOST BUDDY WENT FOR A NIGHT WALK.
WHOA HEY RELAX.
IT'S NOT LIKE CELEBI WOULD LET US RUN OFF WITH YOU.
UM DO YOU GUYS KNOW
WHERE'S MOUNT FREEZE?
NORTH NOT TOO FAR FOR WINGS, DUNNO ABOUT PAWS
SO THEN I GET TO GO HOME, I GUESS..
IF NINETALES REALLY KNOWS THE WAY

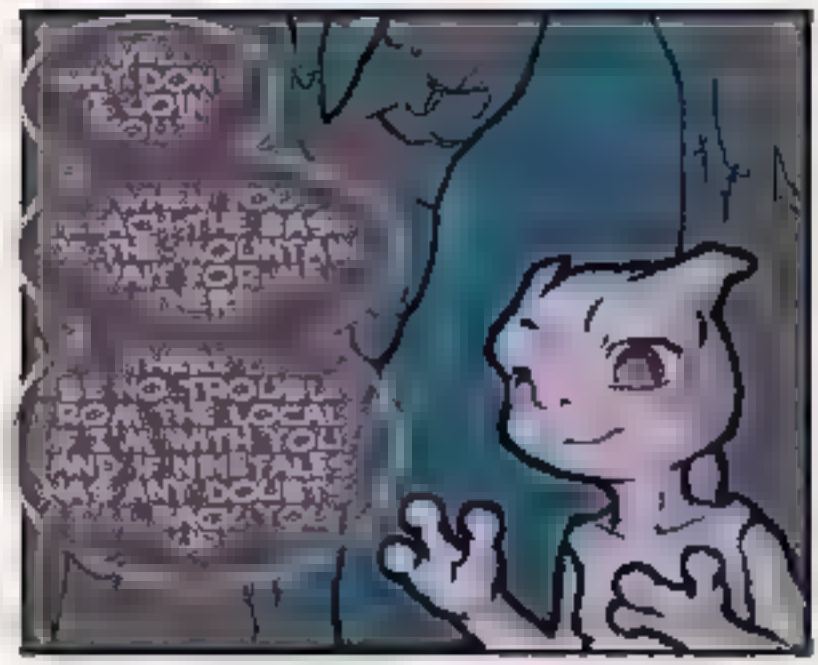
YOU DON'T WANNA GO, DO YOU?
I DUNNO
I FEEL RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHAT YOUR SISTER DID? SHE DID IT, NOT YOU.
IF YOU'RE THE KEY TO ALL THIS, BETTER GET OUTTA HERE NOW AND FOIL WHATEVER SCHEME IT IS INVOLVES YOU
IF THIS ONE LEAVES, WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PUP?
NOT HER PROBLEM.
ANYWAY, THE FREAKY CAT-THING'S GOING TO LOOK FOR YOUR PUP TOMORROW
I WOULD RATHER DO THAT MYS-
KTHOOM

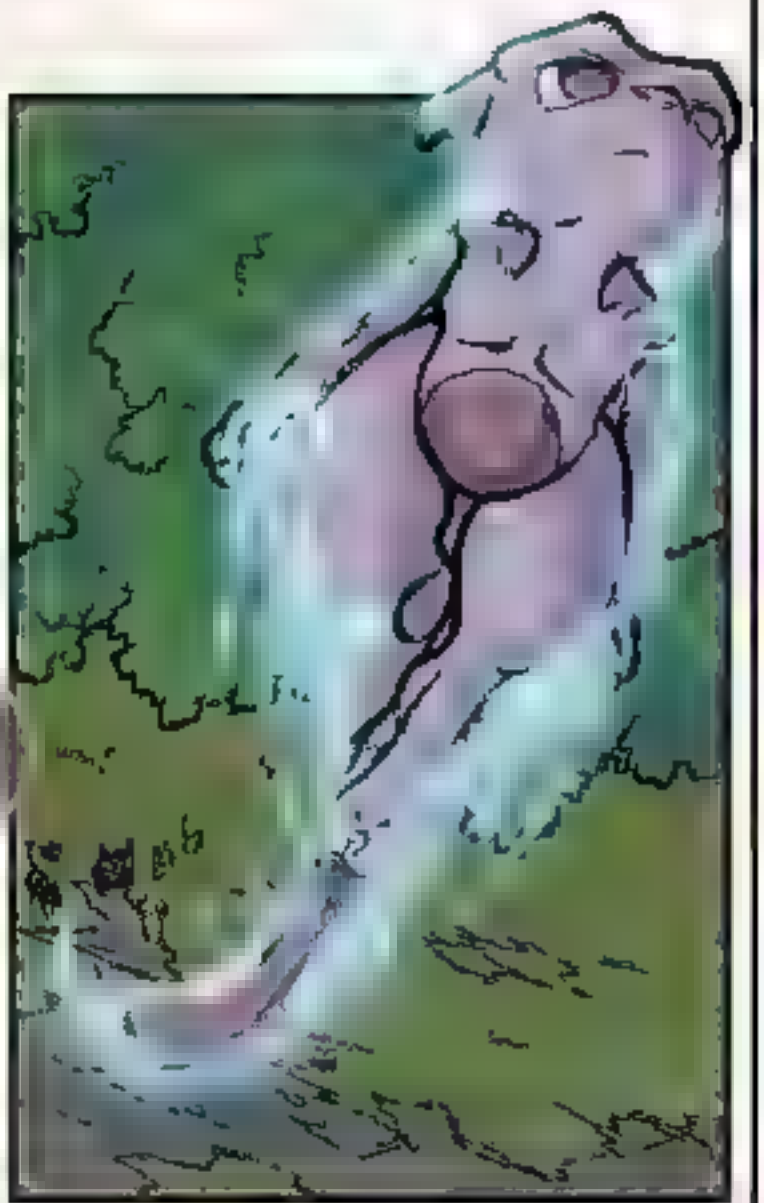

I PICKED UP A [illegible] THAN I EXPECTED
PICKED WHAT UP? WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TELL ME I COULD DO THAT?
UH... ARE WE IN TROUBLE?


REALLY, DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED!
TREES GROW BACK ALL IT NEEDS IS TIME, AND THERE'S PLENTY OF THAT
ALL THE SAME I'D PREFER IF YOU DON'T FIRE OFF ANY MORE FOCUS BLASTS IN MY FOREST
...YOU HAD TO GIVE HIM THAT! IT'S NOTORIOUSLY INACCURATE
SORRY ...
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO TO THE BURIED RELIC IF DARKRAI WAS TRUTHFUL, AND I'M NOT CONVINCED HE WAS.
...THEN SOMEONE ELSE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO CONTROL DARKRAI
ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT THAT PERSON ALONE?
I WISH I FELT AS CONFIDENT AS YOU

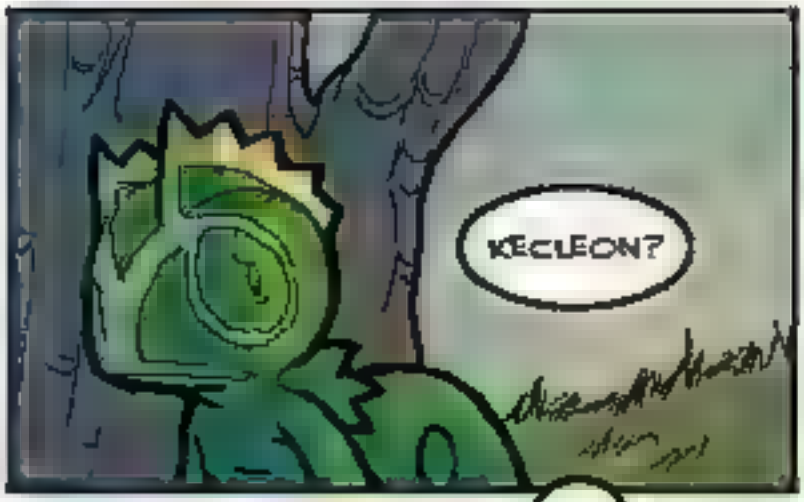

SO, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW GENGAR TO MOUNT FREEZE
IF THERE'S A WAY TO GET YOU HOME QUICKLY, NINETALES WILL KNOW OF IT

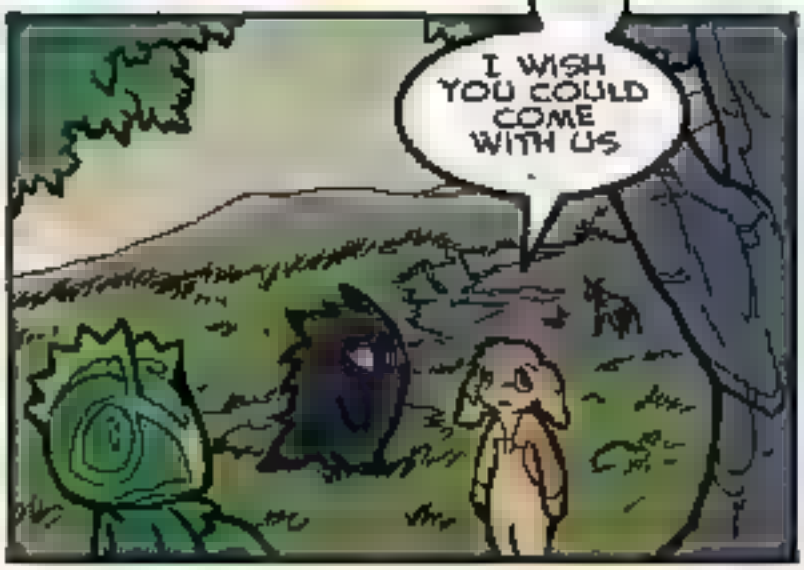
AND IF GENGAR HAS MET HIM BEFORE, SO MUCH THE BETTER!
...I DON'T THINK THAT'S GONNA HELP AS MUCH AS YOU THINK!

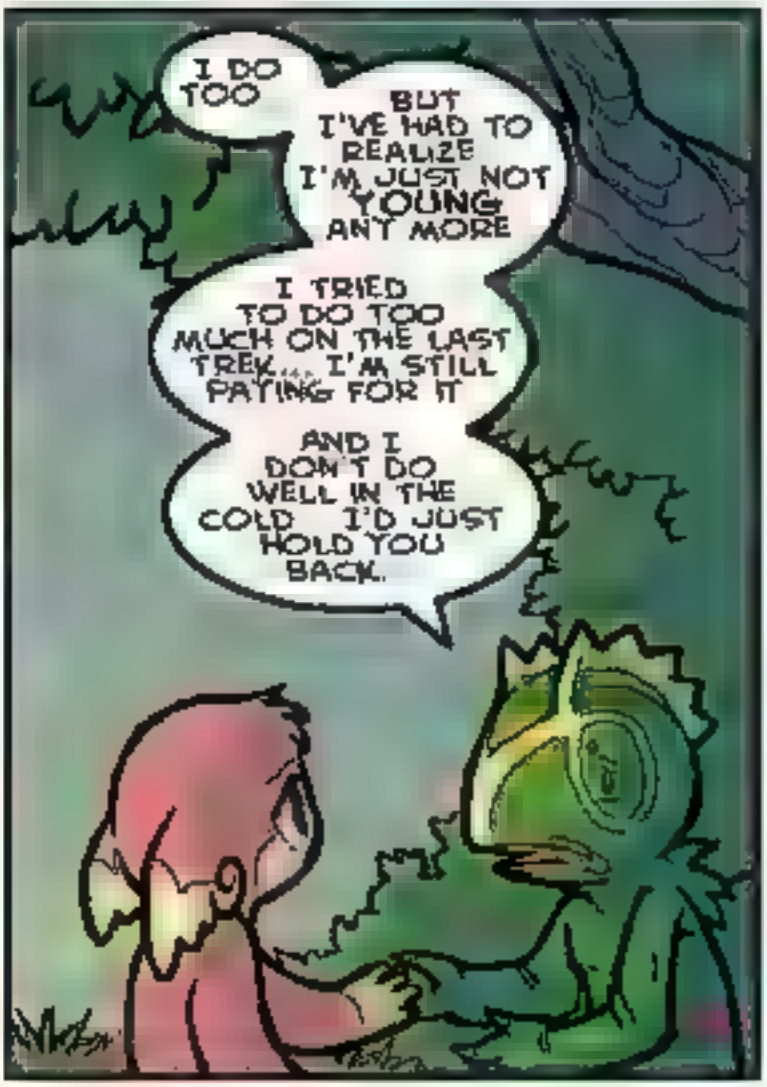




UH, YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THAT AND EVERYTHING ELSE?


KECLEON?

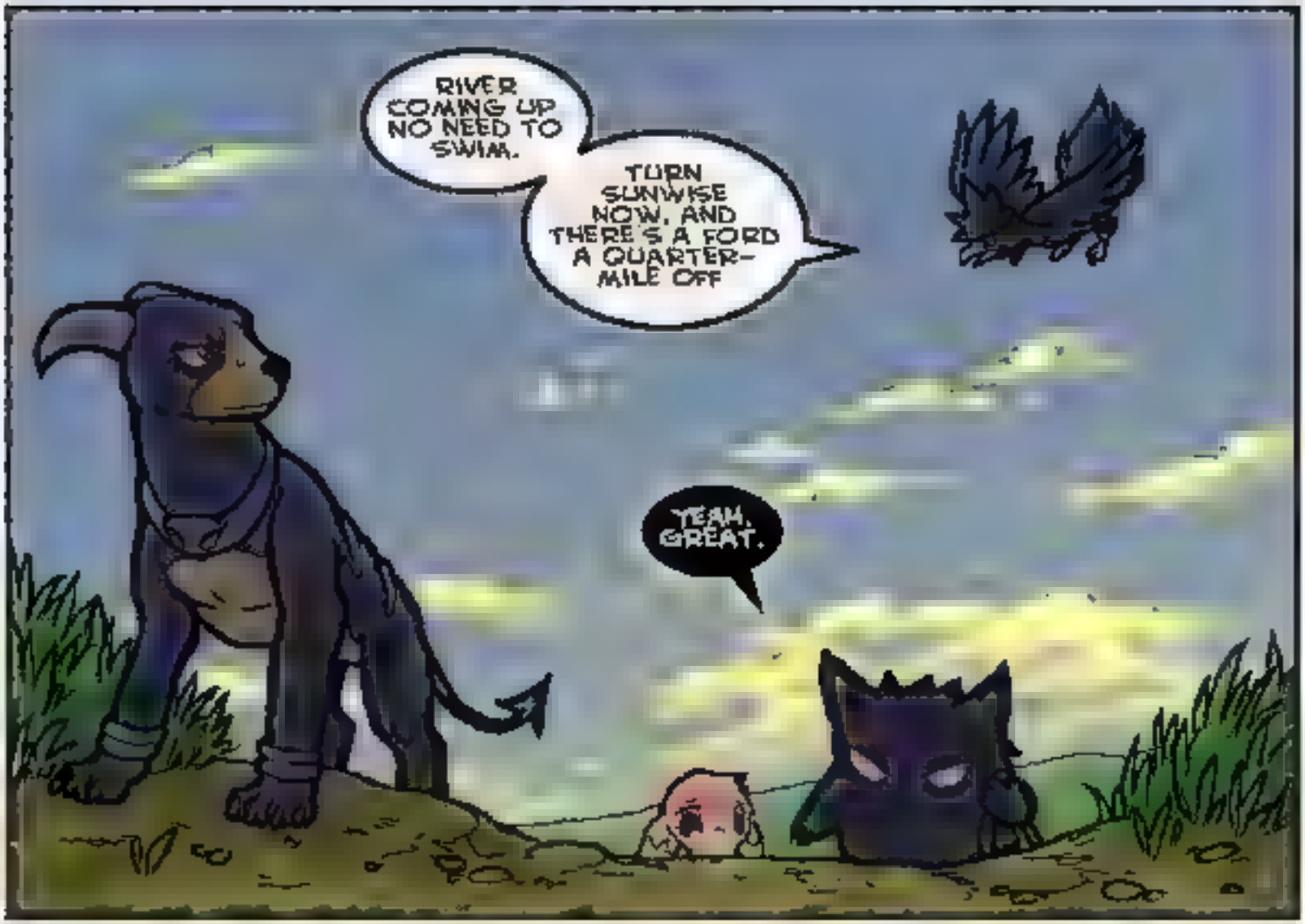

I WISH YOU COULD COME WITH US


I DO TOO
BUT I'VE HAD TO REALIZE I'M JUST NOT YOUNG ANY MORE
I TRIED TO DO TOO MUCH ON THE LAST TREK... I'M STILL PAYING FOR IT
AND I DON'T DO WELL IN THE COLD I'D JUST HOLD YOU BACK.

OH, LET'S JUST GO ALREADY.
I'M NOT DOING ALL THE SAPPY STUFF.

I'LL MISS YOU TOO, YOU SPIKY HEADED JERK!
KEEP ON BEING GOOD

HEH.


RIVER COMING UP NO NEED TO SWIM.
TURN SUNWISE NOW, AND THERE'S A FORD A QUARTER-MILE OFF
YEAH, GREAT.

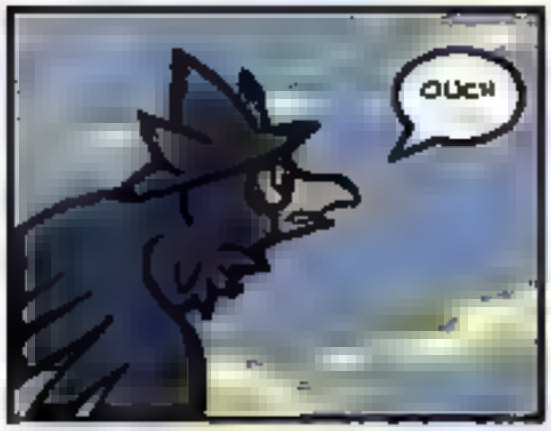
IT FEELS WEIRD WITHOUT KECLEON
IF HE KNEW HE WASN'T UP TO IT, HE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME?

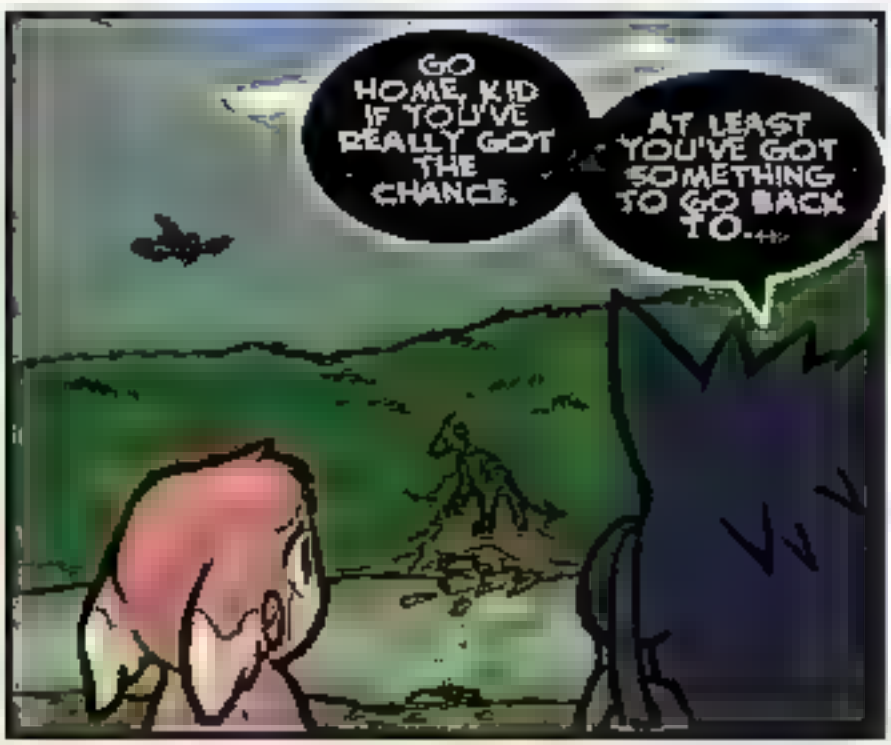
AH, CRAP.

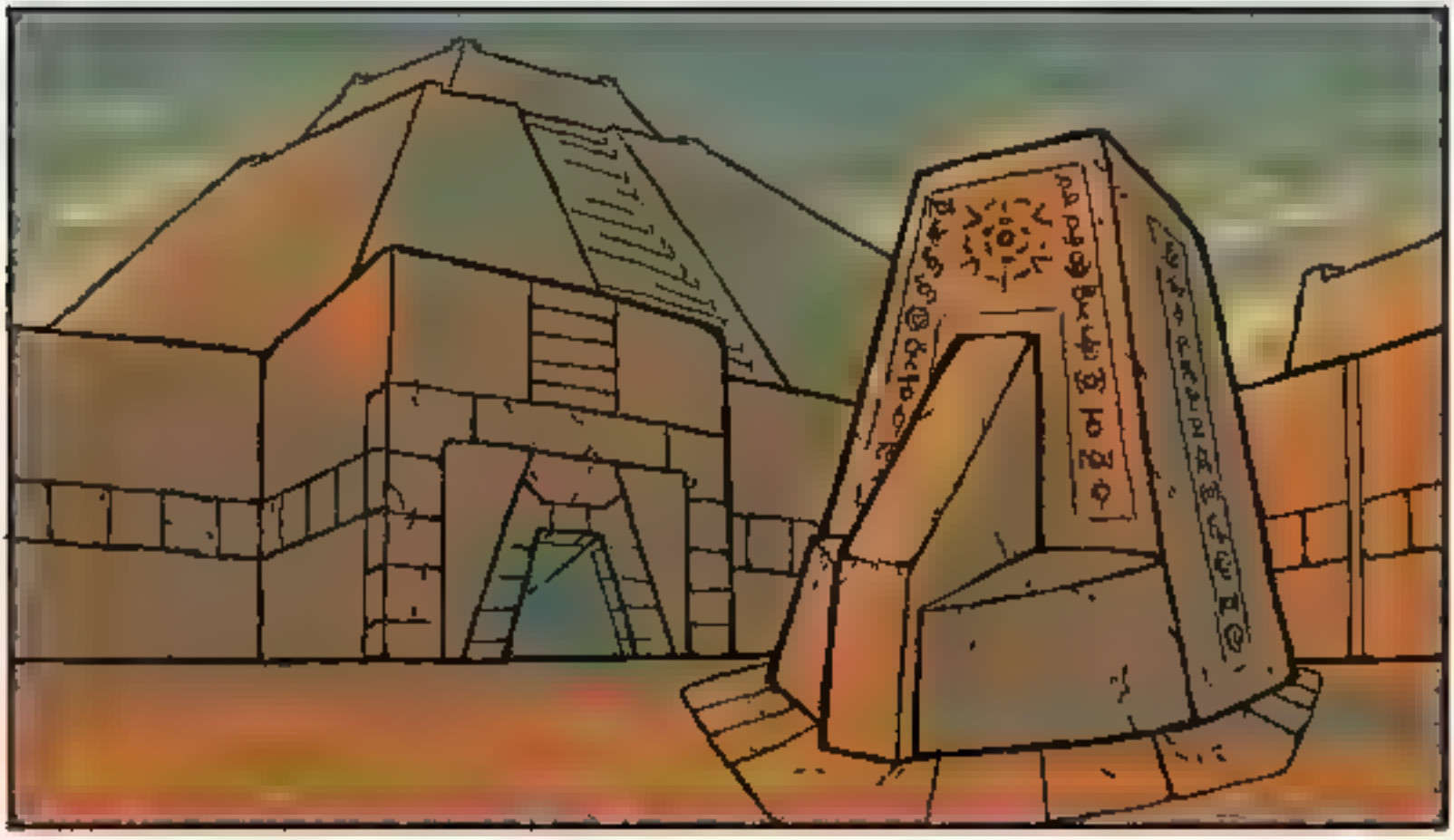
YOU'VE GOT A SISTER AND A BROTHER OUT THERE IN THE WORLD, RIGHT?
SO, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE GOT A MOTHER TOO?
Y-YEAH

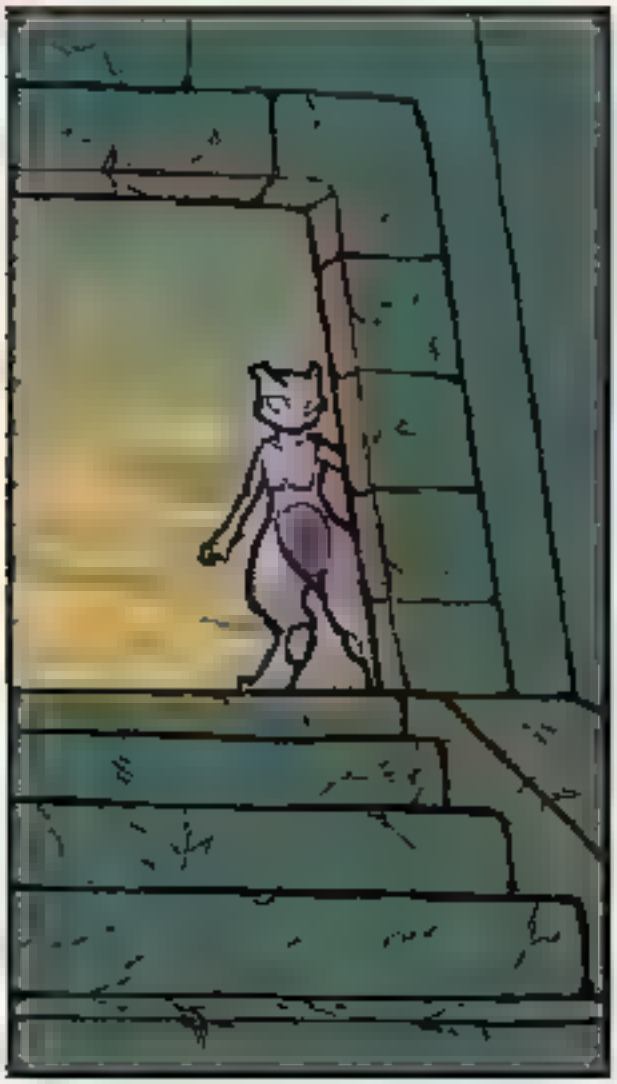
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'D MISS YOU, IF YOU DIDN'T GO HOME?


OUCH

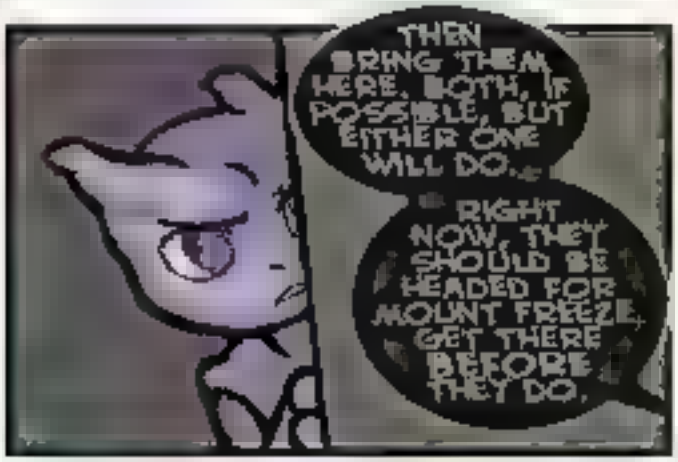
THAT WAS MEAN, GENGAR
NO KIDDING? I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ME BY NOW.

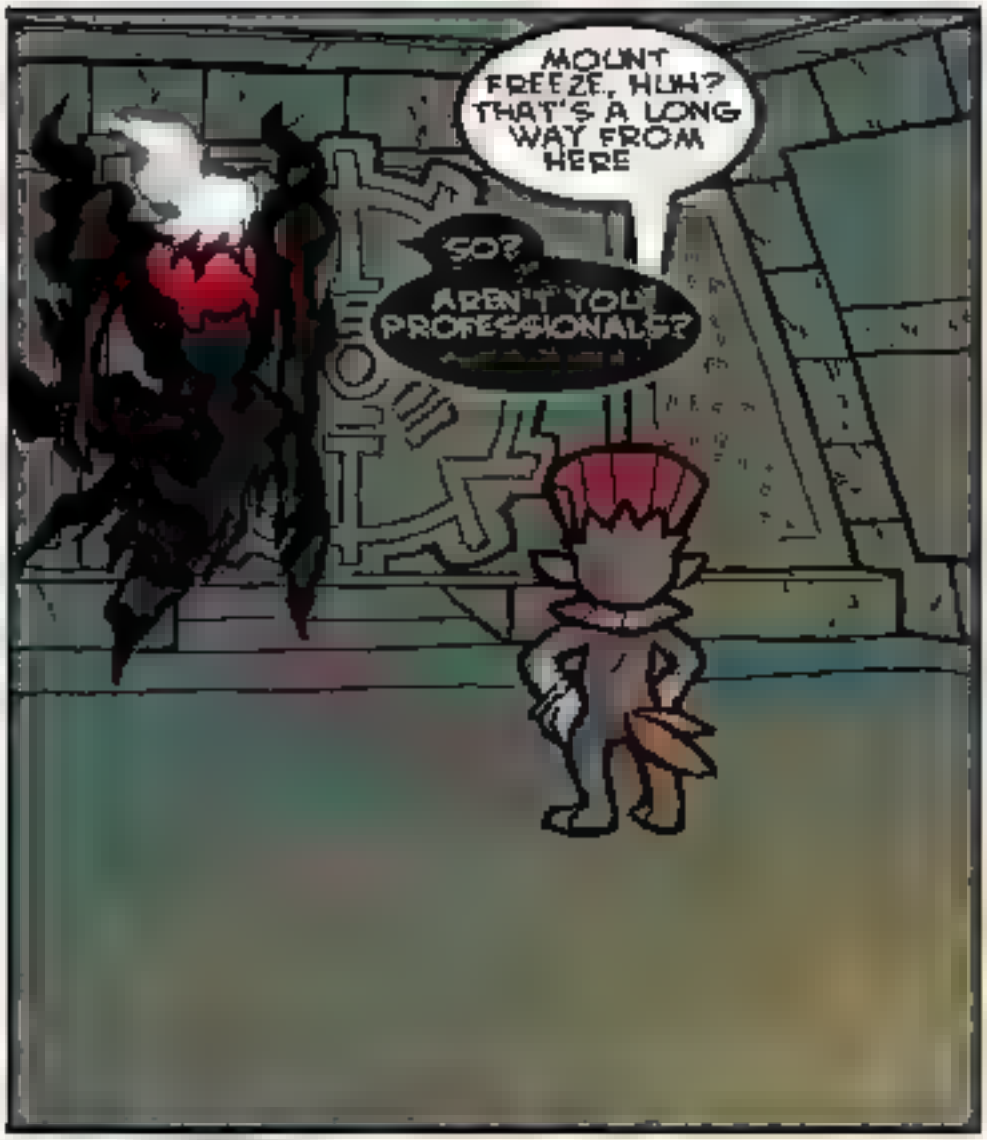

GO HOME, KID IF YOU'VE REALLY GOT THE CHANCE.
AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO GO BACK TO...





...WALKING INTO MY OWN HANGING.
NO NEED FOR THAT, YOUR LORDSHIP
LONG AS YOU'VE GOT THE FEE, WE'LL TAKE THE JOB. GUA-RAN-TEE

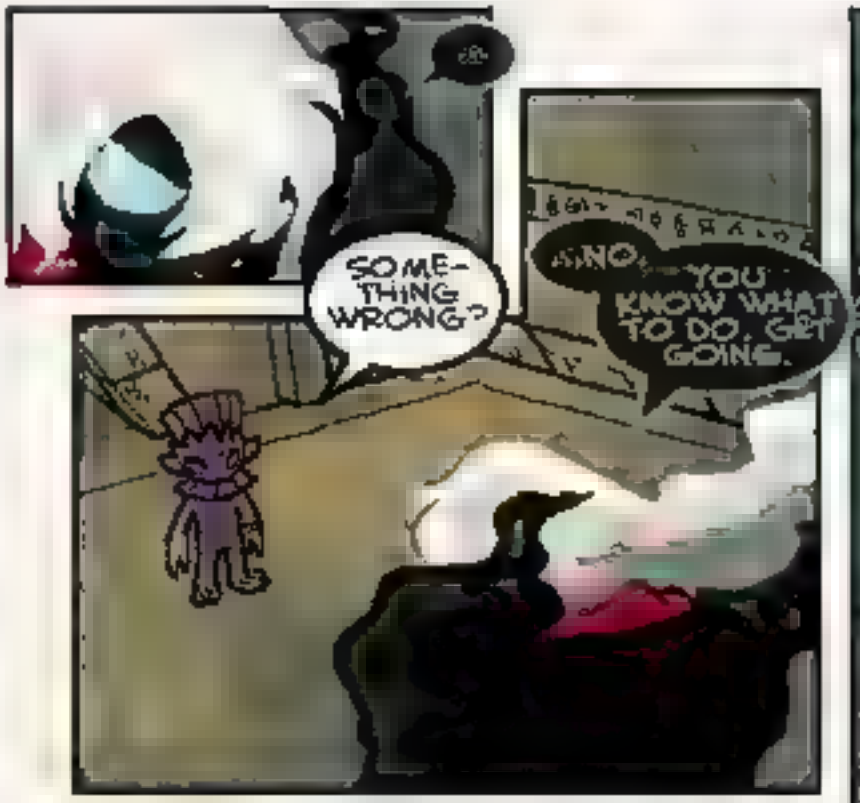

THEN BRING THEM HERE, BOTH, IF POSSIBLE, BUT EITHER ONE WILL DO.
RIGHT NOW, THEY SHOULD BE HEADED FOR MOUNT FREEZE. GET THERE BEFORE THEY DO.

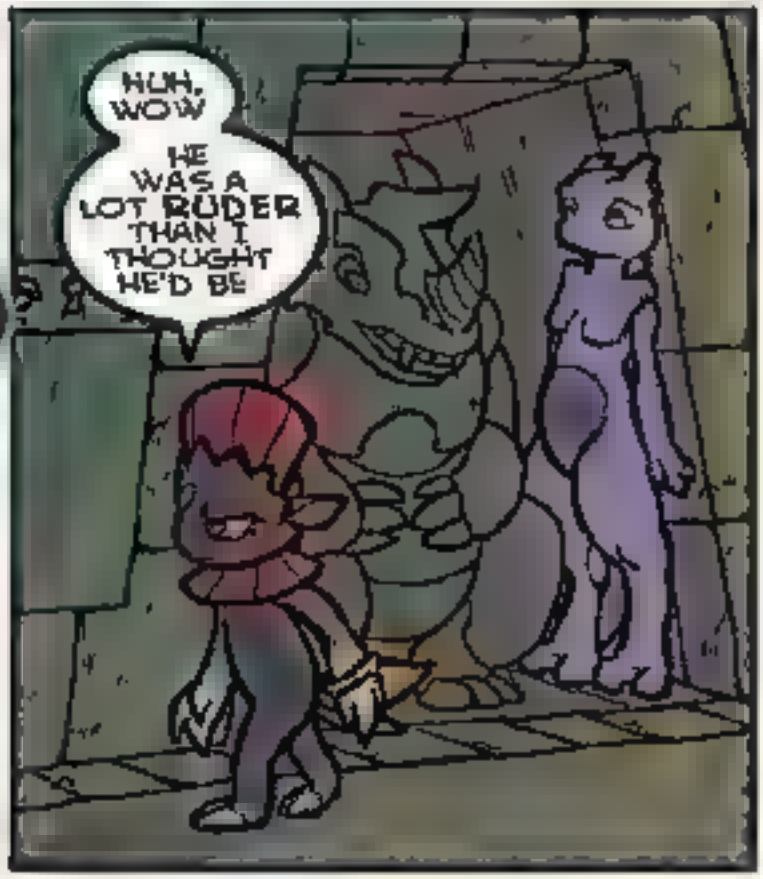

MOUNT FREEZE, HUH? THAT'S A LONG WAY FROM HERE
SO? AREN'T YOU PROFESSIONALS?

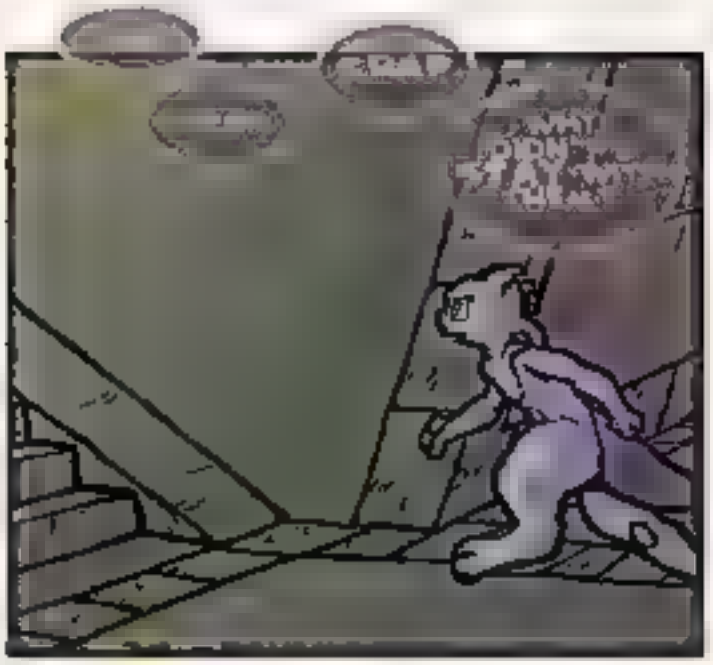
I GUESS I CAN CALL IN A FAVOR BUT I'LL HAVE TO CHARGE EXTRA

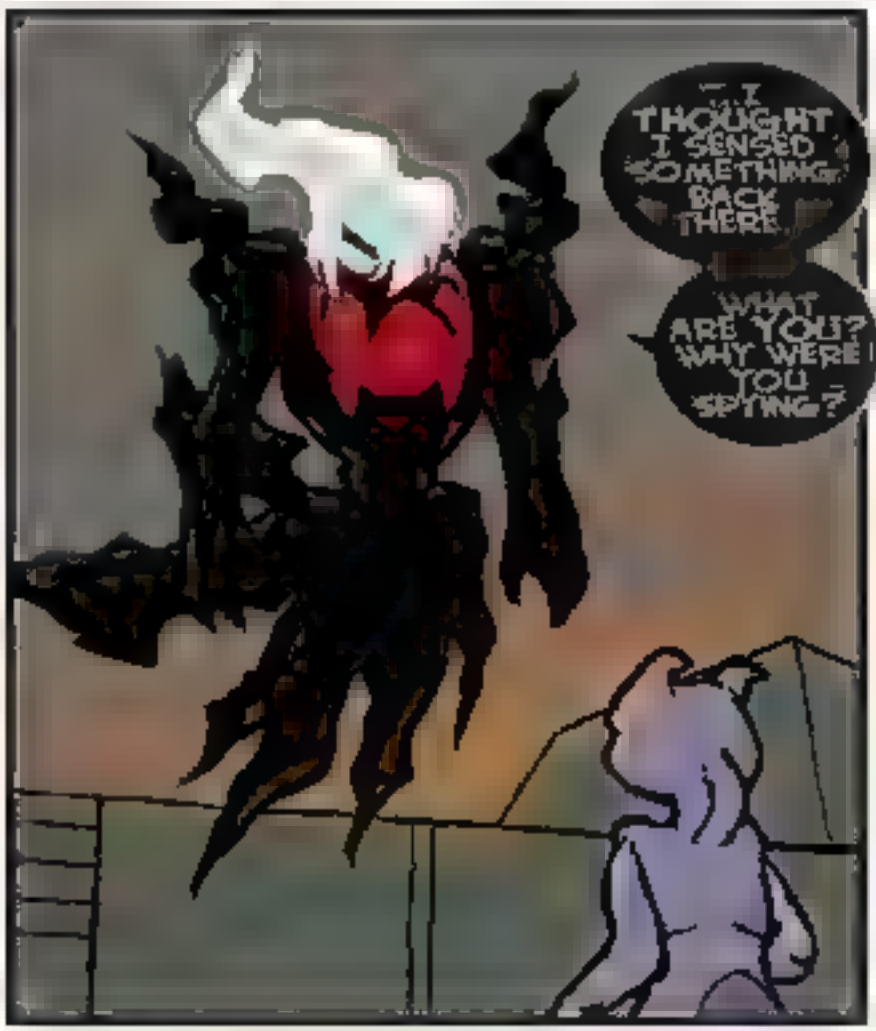
ONE MORE THING, I'VE FOUND OUT THAT THE GINGAR MAY BE KNOWN TO ONE OF YOUR ASSOCIATES. WILL THIS BE A PROBLEM?
NO PROBLEM AT ALL, SIR BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

THERE'S NO AURA!
EVEN A PURE DARK TYPE WOULD HAVE AN AURA

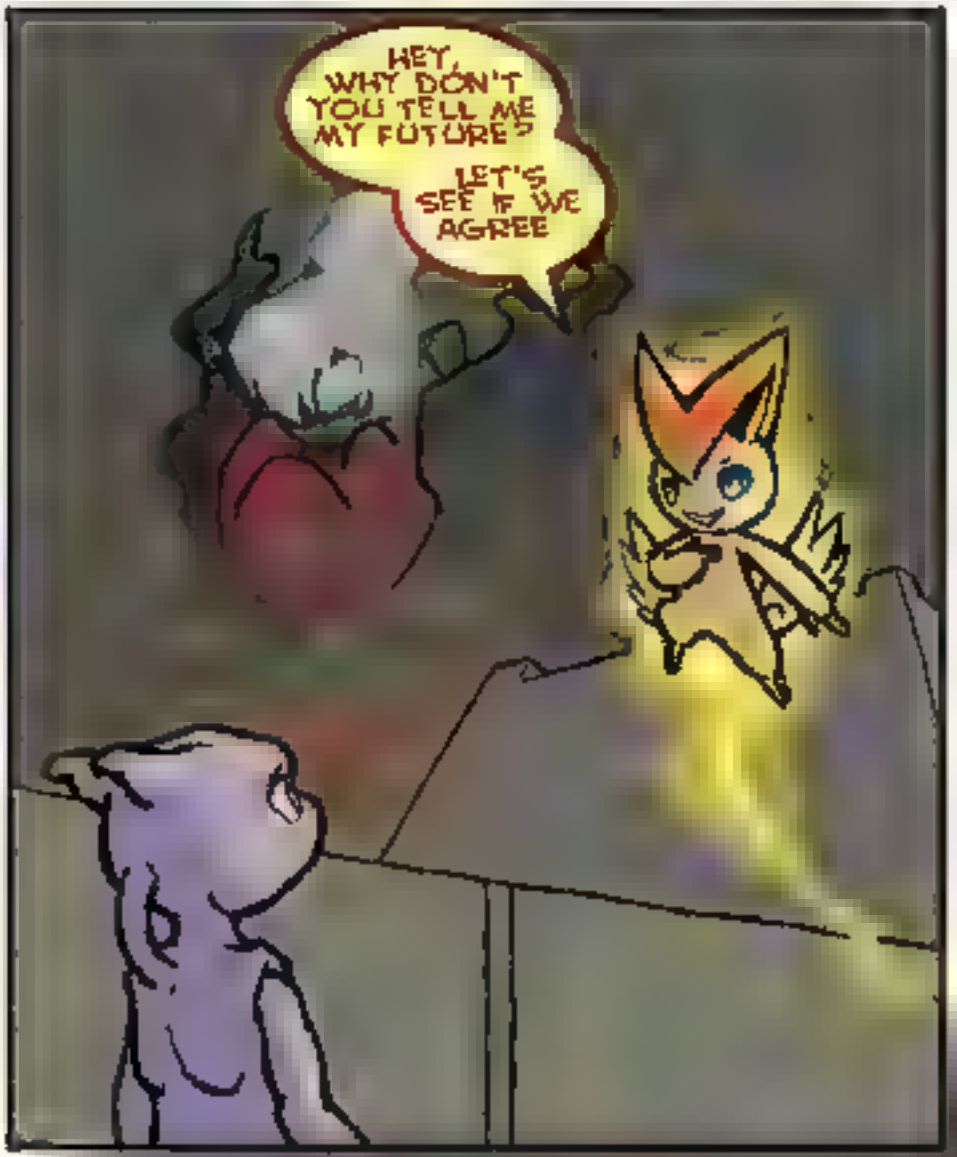

SOME-THING WRONG?
NO, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. GET GOING.

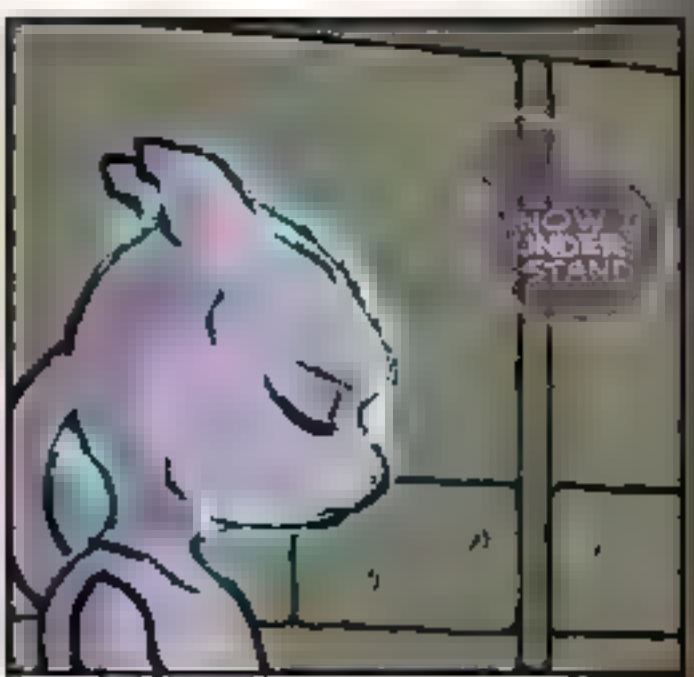

HUH. WOW
HE WAS A LOT RUDER THAN I THOUGHT HE'D BE

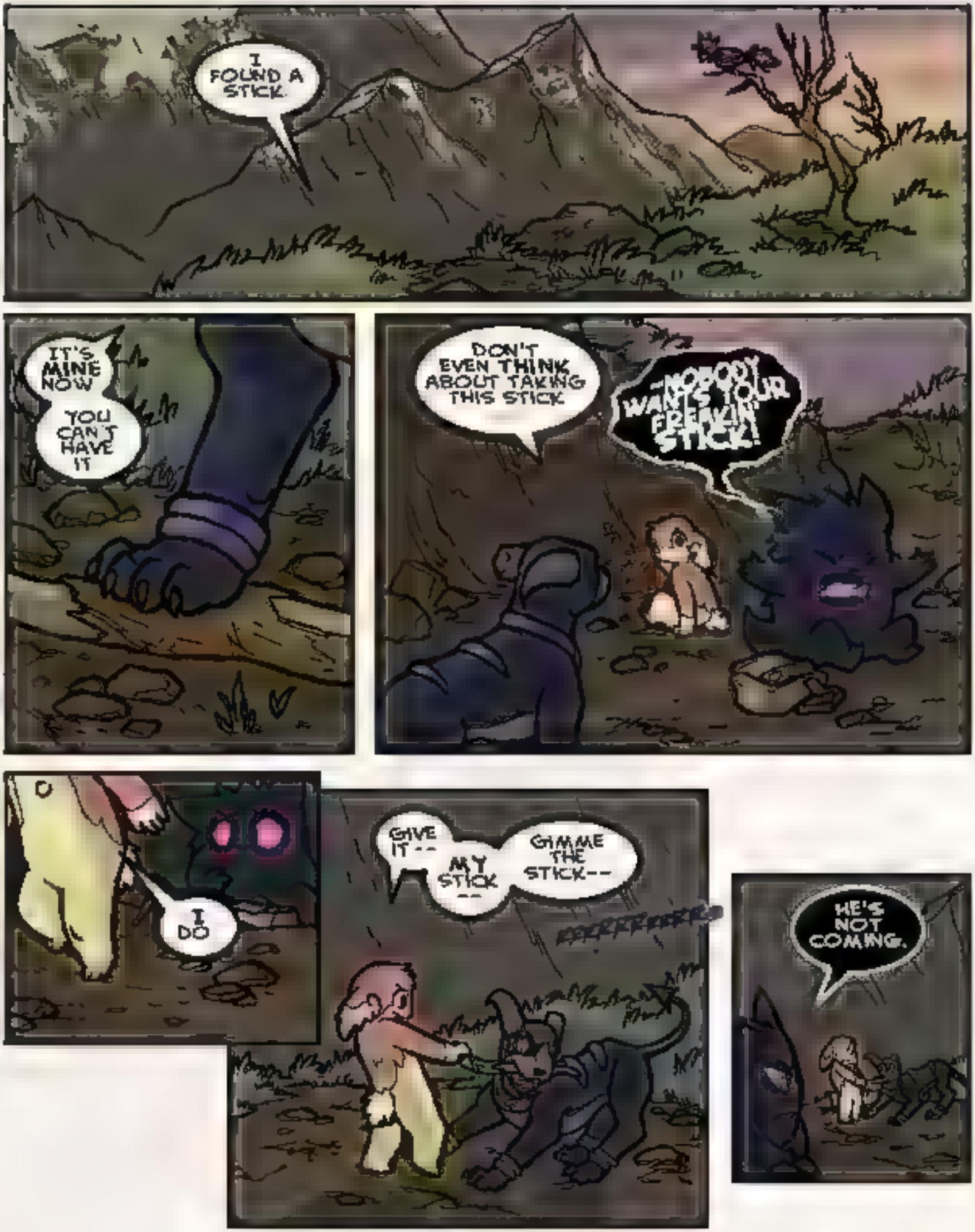



I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHING BACK THERE...
WHAT ARE YOU? WHY WERE YOU SPYING?

OOH ANOTHER PSYCHIC? THAT IS TOO COOL.


HEY, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME MY FUTURE?
LET'S SEE IF WE AGREE




I FOUND A STICK.
IT'S MINE NOW
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TAKING THIS STICK
NOBODY WANTS YOUR FREAKIN' STICK!
I DO
GIVE IT -- MY STICK --
GIMME THE STICK--
RRRRRRRRRR
HE'S NOT COMING.

THE SUN'S NOT ALL THE WAY DOWN YET. WE MIGHT STILL SHOW
HE'S NOT THE SORT OF GUY WHO'D BE LATE.
SOME-THING'S GONE WRONG.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

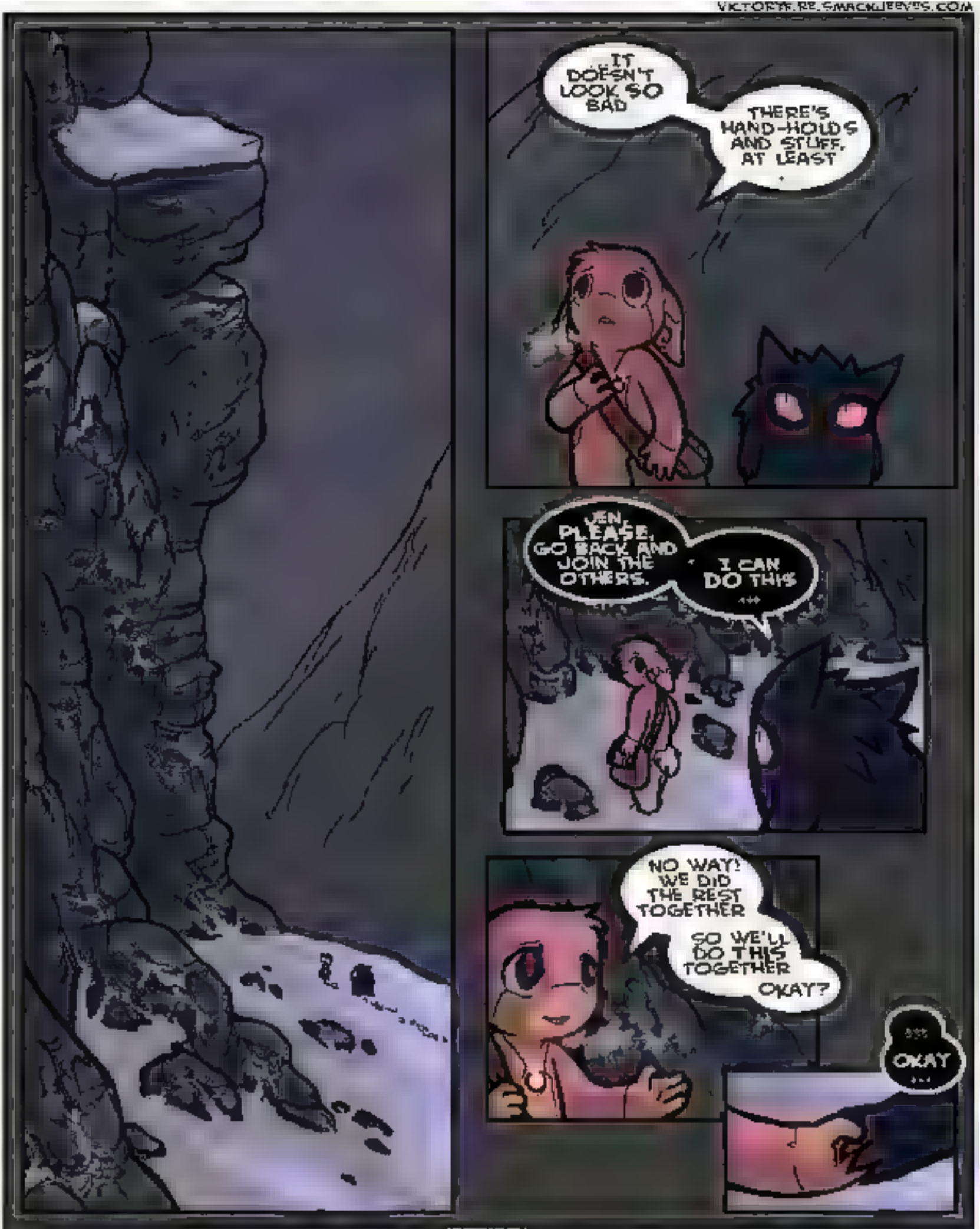
STICK TO THE PLAN.
WE'LL CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN.
ARE YOU SURE?

...YEAH.
COME ON.
BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE...

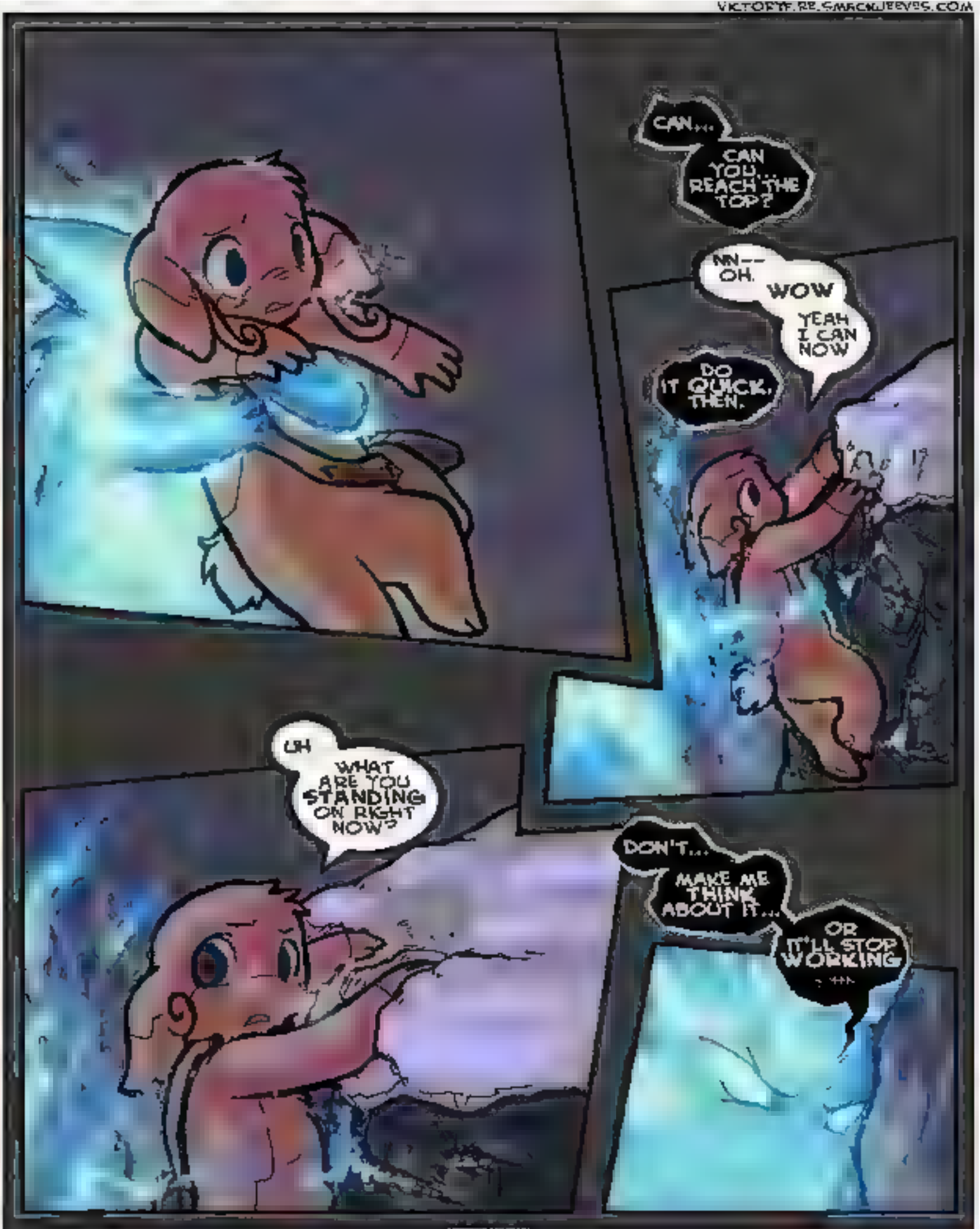
LOOKS LIKE THE TRAIL RUNS ALL THE WAY UP
IT'S STEEP, BUT NOT TOO TOUGH
Y-YEAH, I KNOW...
HH...
HHUH
HHUH...
GENGAR? ARE YOU OKAY?
I
I CAN'T.
I CAN'T GO THIS WAY.
BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY--
I CAN'T GO THIS WAY!

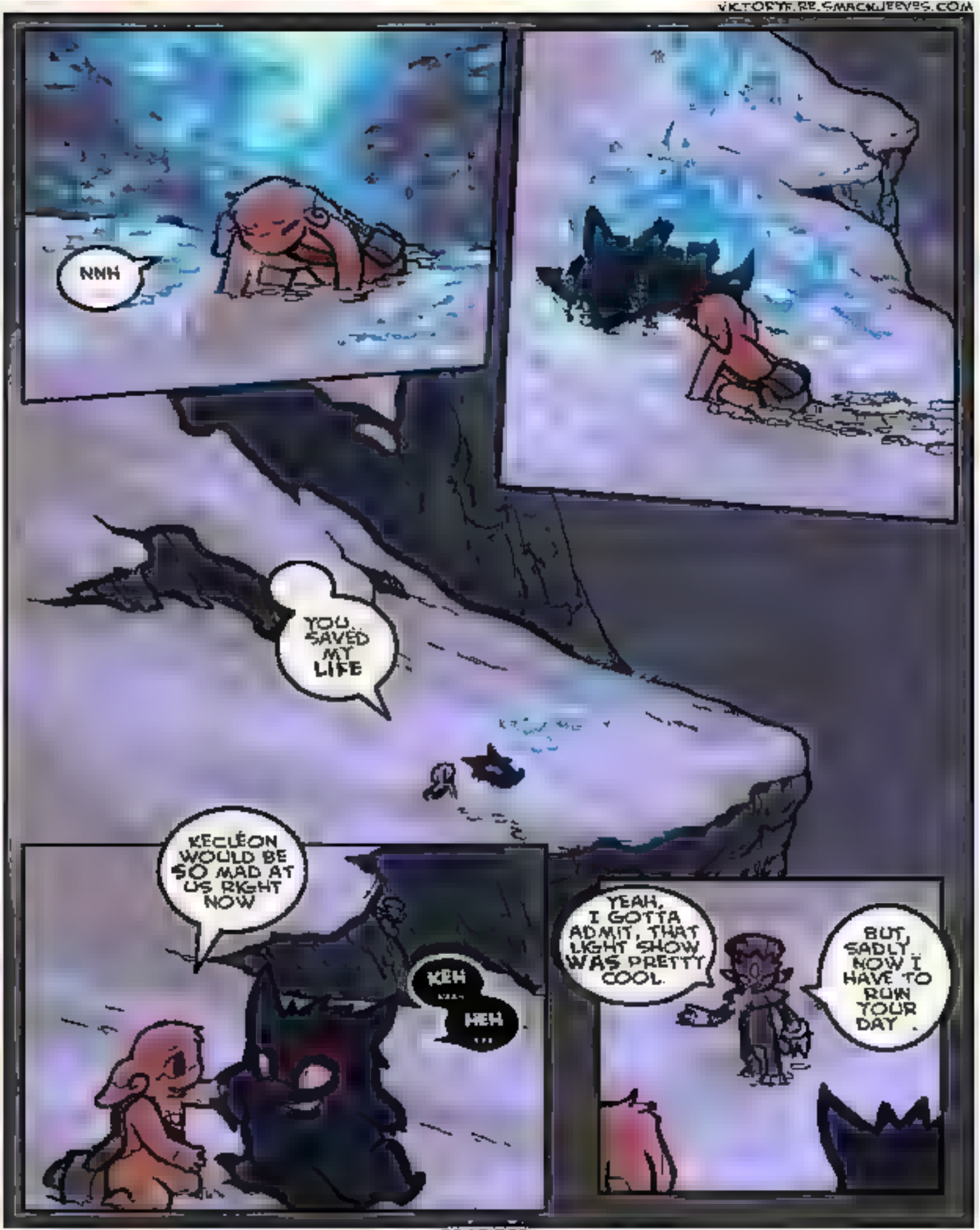
HAGUH
...'S WHY I COULDN'T DO IT BEFORE ...
HADTA GET HELP...
CLIMB THE CLIFFS...
CAN'T WALK UP THAT TRAIL..
CAN'T
BUT WHY?
I DON'T KNOW, I JUST CAN'T.
THEN WE WON'T

YOU-- YOU HAVE TO GO HOME--
WELL, I DONT WANT TO--
YOU HAVE TO!
GO HOME FOR ME, OKAY?
BECAUSE I CAN'T!
GO HOME FOR ME...
YOU GUYS... TAKE THE TRAIL...
MURKROW, YOU CAN SHOW 'EM.
AND I'LL CLIMB... I DID IT BEFORE...
I CAN DO IT AGAIN...
I'M GOING WITH YOU.
KID, NO.
I'M NOT WORTH THAT.
GO WITH THEM WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE...
NO
I'M GOING WITH YOU


IT DOESN'T LOOK SO BAD
THERE'S HAND-HOLDS AND STUFF, AT LEAST
JEN, PLEASE, GO BACK AND JOIN THE OTHERS.
I CAN DO THIS
NO WAY! WE DID THE REST TOGETHER
SO WE'LL DO THIS TOGETHER OKAY?
OKAY

YOU DON'T REALLY FEEL THE COLD, DO YOU?
NO MORE THAN USUAL
LUCK-Y
WISH I HAD SOME GLOVES
UHH!
NO!


CAN...
CAN YOU... REACH THE TOP?
MN--
OH.
WOW
YEAH I CAN NOW
DO IT QUICK, THEN.
UH
WHAT ARE YOU STANDING ON RIGHT NOW?
DON'T...
MAKE ME THINK ABOUT IT...
OR IT'LL STOP WORKING


NNH
YOU SAVED MY LIFE
KECLEON WOULD BE SO MAD AT US RIGHT NOW
KEH
HEH
YEAH, I GOTTA ADMIT, THAT LIGHT SHOW WAS PRETTY COOL.
BUT, SADLY... NOW I HAVE TO RUIN YOUR DAY.

OKAY. LET'S KEEP THIS CIVIL.
I'M WEAVILE THESE ARE MY ASSOCIATES, DRAPION AND OH, BUT YOU'VE MET. HAVEN'T YOU?
IT'SSS ARBOK NOW
EKANS...?
YOU KNOW, ARBOK SAID YOU'D GO UP THIS WAY I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHO'D BE THAT DUMB?
NO. WE'RE NOT.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU TWO DID TO ANGER THE NIGHTMARE KING, BUT THAT'S HARDLY MY PROBLEM.
HE'S PAYING WELL SO THE PAIR OF YOU ARE COMING WITH US

KIAAAA!
KA-BOOM
--HA! YOUR AIM SUCKS!
I WASN'T AIMING AT YOU.

YOU-- CRAZY IDIOT!
GO!
UP HERE, QUICK! DRAPION!
MOVE, MOVE!
WHAT IN MEW'S NAME--?
TROUBLE!
YOU HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF HERE!
WHERE'S THE HOUNDOOM?
USE THE BADGE, CALL MEDICHAM --
BUT--
DON'T ARGUE THIS TIME, JUST DO IT!
UFF--
GUYS! Y'OKAY?
TRY NOT TO BREAK HIM, ARBOK.
I'LL GET THE OTHER ONE.

YOU'RE TOO SLOW, PUP!
GET UP!

AAA!

GO BACK!
GO BACK!

...
...NOT IF IT'S NOT NECESSARY, ANYWAY.
IF YOU FEEL THAT STRONGLY ABOUT IT, I'LL LET YOU GO FOR NOW.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT YOUR FRIEND.
YOU'LL COME FOR HIM.
YOU'LL COME ...
WHEW ...
DON'T GET KILLED ON MY ACCOUNT, YOU MANIACS.